



We'll save you! Porthcawl Sea Festival pictures on page 6.

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 11TH, 2011

CHARITY WALKERS COME OUT IN FORCE TO REMEMBER RICHARD



ABOVE:

On Sunday, these charity walkers gathered at The Pelican, Ogmores-by-Sea to remember Richard Jenkins and raise funds for cystic fibrosis in his memory. For more pictures of the day, please turn to page 4.

(PHOTOGRAPH by RANDELL JOHN)

Man headbutts victim in a violent pub attack

A YOUNG Ogmores Vale man burst into tears and had to be helped from the dock at Cardiff Crown Court by security officers, after being jailed for 21 months.

Joshua Thomas (21) of St John's Street, Ogmores Vale, admitted a charge of wounding a 17-year-old youth and he was also in

CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

breach of a suspended sentence for attacking a man in a pub.

Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones said: "You headbutted your victim, causing him to suffer a broken nose and bruising."

"It is quite plain you have a problem when you

take drink. You turn violent."

The judge said it was clear that the only sentence he could impose was one of custody.

Prosecutor Sarah Waters said that in November, the defendant was in a pub in Bridgend in the early hours of one

morning.

He made a comment to the victim and suddenly turned and headbutted him. The victim had to undergo surgery.

Later, Thomas made an apology to the victim.

The injured man was off work for 41 days and, said Ms Waters, remains

apprehensive when he goes out.

Thomas' barrister, Stephen Thomas, said: "His best mitigation was to plead guilty and he accepts he is entirely responsible."

"He didn't set out to commit an assault, and the meeting was by chance."

"It was a loss of self-control, no weapon was used, and he immediately regretted the attack."

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£500,000 boost for new family project in county borough

A BRIDGEND Local Service Board (LSB) project aimed at improving outcomes for local families and reducing longer-term costs to public services, is being boosted by £500,000 of Welsh Government and European Social Funding (ESF).

A spokeswoman for Bridgend County Borough Council said last week, the 'Connecting Families' project will target families in the Bridgend County area who place most demands on public services and have a disproportionate impact upon the communities in which they live.

Over the next three years, its aim is to work with these families to help them make the necessary changes in behaviour and lifestyle.

LSB partners, including the council, police, Welsh Government, health board, job centre plus and other organisations within the public, health and voluntary sectors will work jointly to plan, integrate and deliver these services.

Carl Sargeant, Minister for

Local Government and Communities, said: "It gives me pleasure to see cross-partner collaboration in action. The award of funding from the Local Service Board ESF project provides an opportunity for Bridgend LSB to show genuine leadership in the public sector reform agenda and make significant steps to improve the services we provide to our most vulnerable citizens."

Coun Mel Nott, Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, commented: "Providing support for Bridgend's most vulnerable families is an important element of the work of the LSB."

"As well as developing support services, the skills and expertise needed for successful collaborative working between agencies will continue to go from strength to strength."

Jo Farrar, Chair of the Bridgend Local Service Board and Chief Executive of Bridgend County Borough Council, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for Bridgend Local Service Board and its partners to work in collaboration for the benefit of the community. We want to find ways of

achieving improved outcomes for local families while providing better value for taxpayers."

"The Connecting Families project will result in improved services for local families that will ensure appropriate help and support is provided in an effective, focused manner."

Paul James, Superintendent for South Wales Police, stated: "This is an important project which will benefit the Bridgend community."

"This important investment will help to transform the lives of some of our most vulnerable families. It's important that we are all working together as a partnership, bringing skills and experience that are necessary to the success of the project."

Catherine Roberts, Head of Primary Care and Planning for Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, said: "Key to the success of Connecting Families is the identification of those cases where the parents/carers of a child have a higher level of need, and where by working with them will have a direct benefit to a child's social and health welfare."

Porthcawl classic signs that are still untouched by human hand!



ABOVE and BELOW:
Er...something is missing!



IT'S often been said that Porthcawl is considered to be the 'jewel in the crown' of Bridgend borough, and that a clue to a well cared-for town is represented by the signage that adorns it -

So here are two of the 'Porthcawl Classics' that have remained untouched by human hand for well over three decades and counting...

If our town's infrastructure continues to be allowed to disintegrate, then it won't be too long before we see a Charlton Heston lookalike running along the beach, with a gang of apes in hot pursuit!

Welcome to Porthcawl (and they'll probably still be around in another 30 years' time, too).
Coun Sean Aspey, Nottage.

Road works herald £9m regeneration

KEY locations in Bridgend town centre are being targeted for a make-over, as part of a £9 million regeneration scheme.

To help minimise disruption, Bridgend County Borough Council says it has been working closely with Wales & West Utilities, who have agreed to bring forward their gas main replacement in Merthyr Mawr Road North before the environmental works are carried out.

These will include improvements to pavements, roads, street lighting and the introduction of seating and public art, a council spokeswoman explained.

"In order to maintain access to properties at Merthyr Mawr Road North and allow vehicles to enter and exit, a new temporary road access has been constructed off the inner by-pass (Langenau Strasse), near to the existing pedestrian crossing."

The new access will be in operation from Monday, August 15.

"To coincide with this, a section of the by-pass will be reduced to one lane, leading to and from the temporary access whilst this is in use," she said.

The temporary road access will remain in place until Friday, August 26, when the bulk

of the Wales & West works are scheduled to finish. Access arrangements will return to normal after this date.

Environmental improvements will begin in October and last for approximately 12 months. Funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) provided under the EU Convergence Programme, with match funding from the Welsh Government and Bridgend County Borough Council, the work will help to enhance the historic character of the area.

New access arrangements may be needed during part of this work, and details of these will be released nearer the time, if it becomes necessary, in order to maintain access for users.

Deputy Leader David Sage said: "These improvements are designed to create a vibrant and attractive town centre and are another exciting phase of our ongoing and award-winning regeneration of Bridgend town centre."

"The scheme will result in a lasting improvement to the local environment but we appreciate that, in the interim, there will be some disruption for residents and visitors."

"We will do our best to minimise this and keep people updated on progress."



Sir Ranulph Fiennes, pictured with Healing The Wounds director Kevin Richards and charity events manager Amie Philips.

Local Forces charity gets celebrity visitor

A TONDU-based charity has won over two high-profile supporters.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes is described by The Guinness Book of Records as the world's greatest living explorer.

He is lending a hand to Healing The Wounds, the Welsh charity which helps treat sufferers of PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder).

Sir Ranulph took time out to help record a promotional film.

"It was an honour to meet such an inspirational gentleman with such amazing achievements to his name," said Healing The Wounds executive director, Kevin Richards.

"Sir Ranulph Fiennes has been named the UK's top celebrity fundraiser by Justgiving.com. He's

raised a whopping £2.5million for Marie Curie Cancer Care in just two years.

"With achievements like that, we are so very grateful that he agreed to help us out with our promotional film."

"The film work was carried out at The Celtic Manor Hotel in Newport and the final edited version is likely to be broadcast as a TV advertisement for the charity's work."

Sir Ranulph was the first person to visit both the North and South Poles by surface means and the first to completely cross Antarctica on foot.

In May 2009, at the age of 65, he climbed to the summit of Mount Everest and has written numerous books about his army service and his expeditions.

Will(ing) hand for charity!



ABOVE: Will Young autographs the Healing The Wounds banner.

THE Healing The Wounds charity has also been given a boost by singer Will Young.

Events manager Amie Philips is a big fan of the singer and asked for a favour when she bumped into the singer and actor.

"I asked Will if he'd be kind enough to autograph one of our Healing The Wounds banners and he was delighted to agree, after I explained to him what the charity's work involves," she said.

"Will was very interested in what we are doing to treat sufferers

of PTSD in Wales and wished us all the best for the future."

"His autograph is the first on our banner, but it will be the first of many, we hope, as we plan to get more celebrity autographs and endorsements."

"Then, when we've filled as much of the banner as we can, we will put the finished banner up for auction to raise cash for the charity."

"As an auction item, it will be a real one-off and of great appeal to celebrity autograph hunters."

Local hospital wins new award

THE education centres at the Princess of Wales and Neath Port Talbot Hospitals have launched an award for foundation trainee of the year.

This recognises the trainee doctor who has been "exceptional" during their first year, and it was awarded to Dr Anthony Williams.

Dr Williams was chosen after receiving excellent reviews from his educational supervisors following his rotations through palliative care, general medicine and care of the elderly, and general and breast surgery at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

He said: "It was great just to be nominated for the award, let alone win. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as a doctor; it has been a really exciting challenge."

"I have worked with some amazing people over the last year, who I have had the opportunity to learn so much from and who have supported me a tremendous amount. Also, the chance to meet patients on a daily basis has been a real privilege."

Dr Fiona Rawlinson, educational supervisor and consultant in palliative medicine, added: "Dr Williams is a soundly motivate, self-directed learner, who has an excellent, insightful approach to medicine."

The award was presented during an introductory session for the new intake of trainee doctors, during which Dr Williams gave a presentation based on his experience as a first year trainee doctor.



Foundation trainee of the Year, Dr Anthony Williams, with his certificate

sented by Dr Sandeep Singh, foundation programme director for Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot.

"This is the first year that we have given this award. I am very proud to present this award to Dr Williams, who has been an exemplary junior trainee doctor. I wish him the very best for his future career."

"I am also thankful to the postgraduate staff for their immense support during the busiest time of the year, without which this event would not have gone ahead," he commented.

The award was presented during an introductory session for the new intake of trainee doctors, during which Dr Williams gave a presentation based on his experience as a first year trainee doctor.

'Beware bogus callers' - police

POLICE in Bridgend have again warned residents to be aware of bogus callers and rogue traders, following an incident when a man purporting to be an antique dealer, went to the home of a 79-year-old man in the town.

"Fortunately, on this occasion nothing was stolen, but officers are reminding residents to be alert in order to prevent scams taking place," said Deborah Elward, crime reduction advisor for the Bridgend area.

"The residents of the borough of Bridgend are playing a big part in reducing crime, but there is always more we can do."

"At this time of year, scams, bogus callers and rogue traders are always scouting around trying to get hold of your hard earned cash," she stressed.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL AUGUST 18)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
11 Thur	06.23	8.4	18.41	8.8
12 Fri	07.15	8.9	19.36	9.2
13 Sat	08.00	9.2	20.13	9.5
14 Sun	08.37	9.5	20.49	9.7
15 Mon	09.12	9.6	21.29	9.7
16 Tues	09.45	9.5	22.01	9.6
17 Wed	10.12	9.4	22.34	9.4
18 Thur	10.46	9.2	23.02	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.



A 'Dream Day' comes true for Annie and Sam

LEFT: Keith E Morgan presents Sam Chick with a new digital camera. (This photograph by Andy Chapman). Sam's photos on this page are marked 'SC'.

THE recent Porthcawl Porthcawl Carnival to make July 23 a special day. Annie was dressed up as a princess at home, and was collected by a limousine and brought to Porthcawl, where she rode on one of the carnival floats.

Sam Chick of Penarth had always dreamed of being a professional photographer, while young Annie Rose of Ogmore Vale, as with many little girls, dreamed of being a princess.

The charity 'Follow your Dreams' got to hear of their ambitions, and worked alongside the organisers of

When Sam arrived in Porthcawl, GEM photographer Keith E Morgan presented him with his own digital camera (top left) and he was able to take his first photos!



ABOVE: Annie gets ready in the morning and (below) is all ready to go!



MAN INJURED IN STREET ATTACK

POLICE are appealing for witnesses, following an assault in Tonna Road, Nantylfyllon, on Monday, August 8.

A spokeswoman reported that a 26-year-old man suffered fractures to his back and legs after being assaulted by four males at around 3.30am and was being treated at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

Detective Constable John Doherty of Bridgend CID said: "We are particularly keen to trace the driver of a small dark coloured car, possibly a Renault Clio, who we believe was involved in a verbal altercation with

the suspects prior to this assault taking place.

"We believe the driver exited the vehicle and was involved in some sort of dispute with a group of individuals before returning to the car and driving off in the general direction of Nantylfyllon.

"This is being treated as an isolated incident; nevertheless, it has left the victim with some serious injuries which will require a prolonged stay in hospital."

Anyone with information should contact Bridgend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Town play park opens in memory of tragic Karolina

A CHILDREN'S play park will be officially opened on Friday, August 12 in memory of a local girl who died after becoming trapped by an automatic gate.

The Karolina Park at

Highland Place, Bridgend, is just yards from the car park where little Karolina Golabek, five, died while playing last summer.

The tragedy prompted calls by local residents for a safe place for their children to play.

Bridgend Town Council led the £50,000 project to equip the park with help from Bridgend County Borough Council, the Bridgend Town Hall Trust Fund, the National Lottery and Ford, one of the town's biggest employers.

The park features swings, slides, a roundabout and see-saw, plus a separate area for dog-walkers, with decorative bins and benches.

Karolina's family had moved to Bridgend from Poland shortly before the tragedy. Her mother, Barbara, said: "It's touching for us that the community of Bridgend still remembers our little girl. We wish all children good fun in this place and we are sure you will be safe here."

Karolina's death in July 2010 came just days

after a similar tragedy in Moss Side, Manchester, when seven-year-old Semelia Campbell became trapped in automatic gates.

Her cousin, Tony Walker, is travelling to Bridgend for the opening of the park, in a bid to highlight the campaign to ban gates without sensors.

Mr Walker, members of the Golabek family and Bridgend Town councillors David Unwin and Peter Foley formed a delegation that took a petition to Downing Street last October.

Their Gate Safe campaign is supported by industry leader Richard Jackson, who will also be attending the event in Bridgend.

You can now read your Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM online - just visit www.bridgend-today.co.uk

Porthcawl coastal path officially open



ABOVE: The £216,000 footpath and cycleway was officially opened last Wednesday (August 3). Pictured are the mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Barbra Stubbs, opening the path with deputy council leader David Sage.

Porthcawl Lions' new district governor is a man who keeps busy!

PORThCAWL Lions are extremely proud of one of their longest serving members, Lion Laurence Pearce, who has been elected as the new district governor for 105W District - which includes clubs from Abertillery to Wotton-under-Edge.

Laurence will be responsible for 55 clubs and aims to visit each one at least once during his year in office, as well as attending numerous official functions, conferences and conventions.

All this as well as being a hard-working member of Porthcawl Lions. Laurence joined Porthcawl Lions in 1989 and has twice been club president. He has always been a very active member of the club and two of his recent initiatives have been setting up a Leos Club in Porthcawl Comprehensive School for pupils from 11 to 18, and trying to start a Lions Club in Port Talbot.

Now retired from Fords, Laurence certainly likes to keep very busy. Outside his Lions duties, he is a lay preacher at Trinity Church, a devoted grandfather and also rumoured to be a good cook.

Of course, behind every good man there is an even better woman and Laurence could not do what he does without the fantastic support given by his wife, Julie, who many will recognise as the recently-retired librarian from Porthcawl Comprehensive. She has already accompanied him to conferences in

Laurence and Julie at a recent conference.



Ireland and America.

Every member of Porthcawl Lions is delighted for Lion Laurence and wish him a

very happy and successful year.

JOHN COSSON (Porthcawl Lions)

Looking back on hectic programme

PENCOED WI NEWS

THE spring and summer programme included six excellent and varied speakers.

June's speaker, Mr Barry Stephens, JP, really got things going, causing some interesting debates between members. He gave an insight into the work of a JP: presenting a case, he asked what the sentence should be passed. The responses varied from community service and 'deport him to the colonies', to 'lock him up and throw away the key'.

Other activities have included a summer outing, the link Solstice Tea, a trip to Denman College, where a wide variety of educational courses is available, and several federation walks included a guided walking tour of Gloucester. The autumn agenda begins on September 13

when the speaker's talk is entitled 'What the postman saw'.

November 3 is the date for our next link meeting, an evening on this time, with a speaker, entertainment and a buffet.

Under the leadership of president Val, about 10 brave ladies are going to start rehearsing for the Christmas party entertainment and the Christmas lunch has been booked.

Before that is the autumn fayre on October 15.

Members meet on the second Tuesday of each month at Pencoed Welfare hall at 1.45pm to 4.15pm.

The craft, walking, book and lunch clubs also meet monthly.

Visitors are welcome. For further information, ring Val on 01656 862181 or Pat on 01656 860289.

Kittens were thrown out with the rubbish

THE Maesteg Animal Welfare society is urgently seeking good homes for two kittens, Binny and Baggy, who were found in a black bin bag, thrown out with the rubbish.

If you could offer a home for the two eight-week old males, please contact Jan on 01656 721496 at Maesteg Animal Welfare Society, which also has many young cats, desperate for loving homes.

Telephone 01656 667463/721496 if you can help.



BINNY AND BAGGY.

Local charity walkers remember Richard and brave the rain to raise cash for cystic fibrosis



Photographs by
RANDELL JOHN

(Available for purchase from
www.RandellJohnPhotography.com or
telephone 01656 662324, 07905 676241)

THE annual 'Richard Jenkins Walk' on Sunday, August 7, raised money for research into cystic fibrosis.

As you can see from the images of the day taken by local photographer Randell John, the walkers showed determination to cover the allotted distance in teeming rain.

They made their way from The Pelican in Ogmore-by-Sea to the Riverside Tavern in Bridgend.



LOCAL RESTAURANTS PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS TO HELP THE SANDVILLE

REPORT and
PICTURES by
KEITH E MORGAN

TWO local restaurants recently held charity events in order to raise funds for the Sandville Self Help Centre at Tón Kenfig.

On the recommendation of local gents barber, Jeff Kent, The Bengal Lounge Indian and Bangladeshi restaurant in Kenfig Hill held a special charity evening to raise funds for the Sandville Self Help Centre. Tickets for the evening were a sell-out.

The lucky ones who were able to reserve a table were served with innumerable varieties of Indian and Bangladeshi dishes, all of which were cooked to original recipes.

Following the meal, the contented customers were entertained by compère and comedian Gareth Brennan.

A very enjoyable evening was had by one and all, with Proprietor Abdul Miah putting the 'icing on the cake' at the close of the evening, by presenting Sister Gwyneth Poacher with a cheque for £650.

Gwyneth responded with a vote of thanks to management and staff at The Bengal Lounge, to compère Gareth Brennan, to the Hi Tide, Porthcawl, for the loan of the audio equipment, and to all those customers who had bought tickets for the charity evening to support Sandville.

ISABELLA'S EVENT

Another equally rewarding event in aid of funds for Sandville was arranged by Isabella's Portuguese Brasserie of Well Street, Porthcawl.

Not normally open for Sunday lunches, management and staff all volunteered their free time recently, to serve two separate sittings of Sunday lunch to a sell-out clientèle.

The Brasserie was packed to capacity with customers having multiple choices of dishes on offer for two or three-course lunches, all of which were cooked to order before their eyes by joint proprietor and chef Duarte De Abrey and his team.

A special thanks goes to Terry Jones Fruit and Veg of Porthcawl, who provided all the fresh vegetables free of charge.

A grand raffle was held at each sitting, the prizes generously donated by local traders and other supporters in Porthcawl.

At the end of the afternoon, joint proprietor Sonia Jones was able to announce that a cheque for £1,810 would be presented to the Sandville Self Help Centre as a result.

Sister Gwyneth Poacher, who later visited the Brasserie, expressed her gratitude and thanks to all who had given up their free time to take part in the event, to all those who had contributed by donating vegetables and raffle prizes, and to those lucky customers who had managed to reserve seats for the charity lunches.



ABOVE: Sister Gwyneth Poacher (right) with Sandville supporters and guest Coun Mary Emmet-Lewis.



ABOVE: Comedian Gareth Brennan (right) was a real scream!



ABOVE: The front of house staff at The Bengal Lounge, Kenfig Hill.



ABOVE: Proprietor Abdul Miah presenting Sister Gwyneth Poacher with a cheque for £650.

'Award would be icing on cake' – BCBC

BRIDGEND is residents that have made Bridgend such a recycling success story, so a vote for BCBC is a vote for the amazing efforts of householders.

"Don't forget, it's thanks to our residents that we have gone from being the second worst recycling borough in Wales to one of the best."

BCBC says it needs its residents to use the online public vote to ensure the borough beats rivals Rhondda Cynon Taff Council and Newport City Council.

The three councils are finalists in Cylch's Wales Recycling Awards in the Local Authority Partnership category. BCBC made the shortlist after impressing judges with the fantastic recycling performance over the last year delivered in partnership with May Gurney – but is up against some big competition due to the size of RCT and Newport!

Coun Phil White, BCBC's cabinet member for communities, said: "At the end of the day, it is residents that have made Bridgend such a recycling success story, so a vote for BCBC is a vote for the amazing efforts of householders."

To vote, go to www.cylch.org/form/Local_Authority_Partnership_Award_2011_Vote_Form and enter your details then click on the button to vote for Bridgend County Borough Council. Votes can only be cast once and must be in by September 2.



ABOVE: Mrs Jacqueline Bate, the first raffle winner, with Geraint and Sonia Jones, of Isabella's Brasserie.



ABOVE: Sister Gwyneth Poacher with supporters from Sandville at Isabella's in Porthcawl.



Sister Gwyneth Poacher at home in the kitchen of Isabella's with members of management and staff.

Council scoops up silver award

JUST six months after securing the bronze level of the Welsh Government's Corporate Health Standard, Bridgend County Borough Council has been reassessed and clinched the silver award.

A spokeswoman said that organisations are usually reassessed every three years; however, feedback at the first session was so positive, assessors recommended that the council attempt the silver within just six months.

The Corporate Health Standard

is a quality mark for workplace health promotion in Wales and is presented in bronze, silver, gold and platinum categories to public, private and third sector organisations.

To achieve the standard, organisations must demonstrate practices which promote the health and wellbeing of employees, covering issues such as smoking policies, sickness management, counselling, awareness-raising of physical activities and healthy eating.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for resources and the

council's health and safety champion, said: "Improving the health and wellbeing of our staff is essential. We recognise the need for a healthy workforce to serve our communities and we have introduced a number of initiatives across the organisation which are helping us together with our staff to deliver this."

"The speed at which we achieved the silver award shows that we are really moving in the right direction. We look forward to welcoming the assessors back to Bridgend when we go for the gold!"

Saturday proves the day as community of Porthcawl enjoys the annual sea festival

LAST Saturday, August 6, all roads led to Porthcawl for its annual sea festival.

As you can see from Paul Jones's pictorial record of the day it was not just an opportunity for the local life-guarding fraternity to show off their skills, the event gave local organisations and charities the opportunity to articulate their contribution to the community.

The festival was due to run over the whole weekend, but the rains came down and Sunday proved a washout.

However, Saturday's weather gave the people of Porthcawl the chance to show off the advantages of living alongside such a beautiful coastline.

**PHOTOGRAPHS by
PAUL JONES**
www.valeevents.co.uk



Kenfig Hill Cadets help out at fun day as sun breaks through!



STAFF and cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC, under the supervision of Sgt Judith Lloyd ATC, assisted in Pyle Community Council's first fun day for several years at Kenfig Hill Rugby Club grounds on Saturday, August 6.

They helped with setting up

stalls and litter collection, while manning their own recruiting and information stall.

Before the fun day began, there was a heavy rainstorm but this didn't dampen spirits and the afternoon proved a great success as the sun shone later.

If you are at least 13 years old, why not join 2117 (Kenfig

Hill) Squadron ATC? We parade on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7pm-9.30pm.

For more information, contact the Squadron on 01656 670125.

Lindsay Thomas
(Secretary,

2117 (Kenfig Hill) Sqn Civilian Committee)

First PACT roadshow stops at Rest Bay beach

RIGHT: the roadshow rolls into town



The first-ever PACT Roadshow rolled into Rest Bay beach to give local residents a greater say on local issues.

The local Neighbourhood Policing Team were joined by South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Coun Gerald Davies and neighbourhood watch co-ordinator Brian Saunders.

The roadshow for Nottage and Rest Bay was aimed at raising the profile of the PACT process and give members of the community, who cannot attend the meetings, the opportunity to discuss issues with members of the PACT panel.

PACT (Partnerships and Communities Together) meetings have been designed to identify and address community needs.

The principle is that residents can raise matters which are clearly having effects on their neighbourhood.

The roadshow also gives the chance for the PACT panel to keep residents up to date with PACT priorities and provide vital information such as crime prevention advice.

Information and success stories resulting from previous PACT meetings were discussed and leaflets explaining the PACT process were issued.

Members of the public were introduced to the hand held speed camera and even used the camera to help slow vehicles down.

Local children were shown the police van and were interested to

sit in the cage to see firsthand what it is like for offenders to be locked up.

Local PCSO Leighton Rees also continued his ongoing crime prevention service to water sport enthusiasts in the car park as part of the successful Surfers Watch.

PCSO Rees said: "This is the first PACT Roadshow in the Nottage and Rest Bay area aimed at improving our service to local residents and visitors to the area."

"This is an excellent way to engage with members of the public and listen to issues that matter which will hopefully strengthen our link with the community, and make south Wales a safer place to live, work and visit."

Drug and alcohol charity is not afraid to be bold

A CHARITY which provides vital drug and alcohol counselling to people within Bridgend borough has joined forces with five other organisations throughout Wales.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

ON July 29, another successful 'tractor and trailer' trip was held with Heritage Coast Rangers, courtesy of Peter Davies of Slade Farm, Pitcot.

A collection was made for Wales Air Ambulance.

Happy birthday was sung to Iris Lintern on her 93rd birthday on July 26 and to Iris Stephenson, 89 on August 5, at 'Tea and Chat'.

Council meeting AT the community council meeting at All Saints Church, Southerndown, it was stated that a meeting was being arranged between the Vale Council, the community council and AM Jane Hutt on provision of allotments.

IT was stated that St Athan is still trying to gain Centre of Excellence and it was resolved that Coun Wilson would continue to represent the community council.

CONCERN was shown over planning passed by Bridgend Borough Council on the Island Farm project and this was to be passed to the community planning committee.

REPRESENTATIVES will attend a planning appeal concerning land at Old Post Office, St Brides Major.

QUERIES have been received regarding land behind Meadow Court (awaiting a date for

consultation with Vale Council).

IT was stated that the public seat on the green at Pant St Brides Major is in need of repair. Also, the cattle grid on the Schilly will be cleaned out - Vale Council to be informed.

The next meeting will take place on September 12 at All Saints Church, Southerndown at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

AT the PACT meeting held at the Church Hall, St Brides Major on August 3, there was a lengthy debate about parking on the roadway adjacent to the Ogmogre-by-Sea car park (river-mouth). Residents will be taking up the situation with the police, Vale council and community council to try and resolve the matter.

THE Ogmogre Retired Residents Association trip to Cardiff Bay on August 4 had a damp start, but the weather soon cleared up and everyone had a pleasant day.

Unfortunately, the secretary and organiser of the trip, Eric Jowett, was unable to go, due to ill health. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The next meeting of the association will take place on September 15 with a bar lunch from 12noon on a varied programme of events for the coming session will be handed out. All are welcome to attend.

Representatives of the West Glamorgan Council on Alcohol and Drugs Abuse Ltd (WGADA) travelled to the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham, to take part in the launch of a new consortium of similar organisations in Wales.

The organisation works in Bridgend, Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot council areas on prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse and works to reduce the harm caused to individuals, their families and the wider community.

The new body - Drug and Alcohol Charities Wales (DACW) - will share expertise in treatment, training, fundraising and research and development between the services currently operating in different parts of Wales.

Suzi Davies, Welsh Conservative Regional AM for South Wales West, attended the launch and praised the work done in Bridgend by WGADA.

She said: "This organisation has achieved a huge amount in the last 30 years or so. Although it adopts a range of ways of working with individuals and families, it is not afraid to be bold."

"The success of the 12-step abstinence programme speaks for itself. That it is taking a lead role in the setting up of this body bodes well."

Whatever advantages may be gained from the consortium, I am confident that their involvement means the work itself will stay firmly and effectively at grass roots level within the community."

Karen Ozzati is head of operations of WGADA, which is one of the leading substance misuse treatment agencies in Wales. Apart from providing abstinence and harm reduction services, it also provides needle exchange and outreach targeted to individual need.

She spoke at the launch and later said: "There is strength in numbers. If we work together, we will have a louder voice, a more coherent approach to raising funds and a more efficient way of using those funds."

"I look forward to being involved in even more partnership ventures through DACW and sharing new ideas so that more of our clients and their families can achieve freedom from the misery of addiction."

AS The GEM was going to press yesterday

(Wednesday) a plaque to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Llynfi Valley Railway was being unveiled in a ceremony at Maesteg Station.

It was the result of a collaboration of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) Wales Cymru, Llynfi Valley Historical Society and Maesteg Town Council.

The plaque was presented to the town by the Chair of the Institution of Civil Engineers Wales Cymru, Sally Sudworth.

She said: "I am pleased to be able to present the commemorative plaque to mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Llynfi Valley Railway which saw the arrival of the steam railway in the town."

"We will celebrate the railway that first opened as a broad gauge railway on 10th August 1861," she commented.

"The transition from horse-drawn tramroad to broad gauge railway, greatly accelerated the industrial development and the economic growth of the townships of the Llynfi Valley."

The Mayor of Maesteg Town Council, Coun Howells, stated: "I welcome the ceremony to mark this occasion in the history of Maesteg and the Llynfi valley and thank the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Llynfi Valley

Historical Society for making this event possible."

Another event to mark the original southern terminus of the railway at Porthcawl, will take place at Porthcawl Museum when Sally Sudworth was due to present a framed print of the engineer who completed Brunel's railway in 1861, Robert Pearson Brereton, to the museum.

BRUNEL

This week, the Town Hall is hosting the Swansea National Waterfront Museum's Brunel exhibition (based on Stephen K Jones's *Brunel in South Wales* trilogy).

Maesteg Town Mayor and members of Maesteg Town council and representatives of Llynfi Valley Historical Society will also be in attendance.

Llynfi Valley Railway opened for goods traffic on August 10,

1861. It partly followed the route of the Duffryn Llynvi and Porthcawl tramroad to Bridgend - presenting a transition from horse-drawn tramroad to broad gauge railway.

The first passenger service commenced on February 25, 1864 from Bridgend to Maesteg, and to Porthcawl on August 1, 1865, passenger trains running from Porthcawl through Cornelly and Tydraw stations to the SWR Junction and continuing up the valley to Coegnant.

At Maesteg, the first station was situated just to the north of the current one which closed with the withdrawal of passenger services in 1970.

Maesteg station, built on the former goods sidings, is now the terminus of the Maesteg Line from Cardiff via Bridgend, a railway service that resumed in 1992.

Kenfig walker attacked: POLICE ISSUE APPEAL

POLICE are appealing for information, after a man was assaulted in the Kenfig Hill area between 6.30pm and 7pm on Saturday, July 30 on the cycle track near Croft Coch Road.

The 39-year-old male victim was walking along the track when he was approached by two male suspects, who in an unprovoked attack struck him across the chest with what is believed to

be a stick or branch before running off, police said.

The victim sustained a minor injury to his chest. Both suspects were male, one wore a blue hooded top and jeans and the other a white hooded top and jeans.

Officers are appealing to anyone who was in the area and witnessed the attack, or who has any relevant information to telephone 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Step Aboard to Visit Ilfracombe - Glorious Devon!

<p>Visit ILFRACOMBE - Glorious Devon</p> <p>WEDNESDAY AUG 17 Leave 11am back 7.30pm</p> <p>MONDAY AUG 22 Leave 10am back 8pm</p> <p>TUESDAY AUG 30 Leave 10am back 7pm</p> <p>MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5 Leave 10am back 8pm</p> <p>Cruise in comfort and style to the Devon Coast and enjoy the afternoon in Ilfracombe £29 SC £27 Or stay onboard for a cruise of the Exmoor Coast £33</p> <p>*AUG 22 & SEPT 5 Return by inclusive coach from SW19999</p>		<p>WATERMOUTH CASTLE</p> <p>WEDNESDAY AUG 17 Leave 11am back 7.30pm</p> <p>MONDAY AUG 22 Leave 10am back 8pm</p> <p>TUESDAY AUG 30 Leave 10am back 7pm</p> <p>Sail to Ilfracombe and visit Watermouth Castle, a theme park with attractions and entertainment to suit all ages. It's a fun filled day out for all the family! £37</p> <p>Buy Tickets Onboard When You Sail or at Porthcawl Tourist Information & Mear's News, Briton Ferry</p>		<p>from BRITON FERRY</p> <p>Balmain sails from outside Neath Council Offices</p> <p>Visit ILFRACOMBE - Glorious Devon</p> <p>WEDNESDAY AUG 17 Leave 8.30am back 8pm</p> <p>Cruise in comfort and style and enjoy the afternoon in Ilfracombe - Glorious Devon £29 Seniors only £27 Or stay onboard for a cruise of the Exmoor Coast for only £35</p> <p>CHILDREN: Under 18 HALF FARE Under 5 FREE</p> <p>As part of you are a UK taxpayer then the charity can claim an extra 20% from the taxman to help preserve these ships. WSH Co Ltd, Cleagey OS BNA, SC030352. All fares include a voluntary 13% donation.</p>	
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Attacker bit a chunk out of man's ear and 'spat it out' in assault

A MAN has been permanently disfigured and had to undergo surgery after a "chunk" of one ear was bitten off during an assault in the centre of Llantwit Major.

The attacker, 21-year-old insurance company employee, Dale Phillips, was jailed for four-and-a-half years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Phillips of Greys Drive, Boverton, admitted wounding Michael Poole with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

Judge Helen Mifflin

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

told him that he had aggressively pursued Mr Poole. Others, she said, had intervened and had tried pushing Phillips away.

"You clearly started the aggression," she said. She added: "This was not the first time you were violent in drink."

"It was a serious offence and in this context, what you did was akin to using a weapon."

Prosecutor Matthew Cobb said that in the early hours of November 8, there was a drunken, violent incident in the centre of Llantwit Major.

In one group of people was the defendant, and in another was Mr Poole. There appeared, he said, to have been an earlier incident between the two men, but sadly it escalated.

On a number of occasions, people tried to shepherd Phillips from the scene.

But he broke free, ran at Mr Poole, attacked him and bit into an ear.

"He tore out a chunk, and spat it out," he said. Mr Poole then left the scene.

When interviewed by the police, Phillips

admitted being responsible for biting and said that it was something he had not intended to do.

In the past, said Mr Cobb, he had been cautioned for carrying out an unprovoked attack.

His counsel, David Pinnell said: "He is a relatively young man and this is his first conviction. He does express remorse, which is genuine."

He said the incident was regrettable and occurred at a time when Phillips was turning a corner and behaving in a mature way.

"He didn't target his victim, it was a drunken fight," he said.

Mystery over deaths of four buzzards



ABOVE: The dead buzzard.

A LANTRITHYD RSPCA has asked the police to investigate, after four buzzards were found dead in the area.

The most recent incident took place on Tuesday, August 2, when Paul Dolan, who lives in Llantrithyd House, came across the lifeless body of the bird of prey.

He told The GEM: "This is the third dead buzzard I have found in the last few months, and I know for certain of a fourth, which was found by a local man."

"It is very upsetting, as they are graceful birds to watch when they are in flight."

"Whoever is responsible is committing a criminal act."

Mr Dolan said that there was no reason for

anyone to poison a buzzard, as they are essentially scavengers, feeding in the main off small animals or carrion.

They do not, he said, attack lambs or any other livestock or pets.

The bird that had been found last week was examined for gunshot wounds, but none was evident.

An RSPCA inspector called and took the bird away for toxicology tests.

A police spokeswoman told The GEM: "Police received a report concerning the deaths of buzzards in Llantrithyd, near Cowbridge on the evening of August 2."

"We are working with the RSPCA to investigate the circumstances of the deaths. Enquiries are ongoing."

Bridgend borough launches new audiobook service

BOOK lovers in Bridgend county borough are set to benefit from new technology which will enable them to download more than 600 audiobook titles directly from the Bridgend Library and Information Service.

It follows the introduction of 'Clipper DL', a brand new download facility which is being made available to all branch libraries.

Library members with broadband internet access will be able to download Clipper's best-selling unabridged audiobooks from any-

where in the world.

The download process is easy to use and suitable for listeners of all ages, including children, so all library members will be able to enjoy the new format.

With new titles added every month, members will have an ever-increasing number of audiobooks to choose from.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for libraries, said: "This new service will mean that waiting lists will become a thing of the past as each title has unlimited availability, allowing the latest best-sellers to be downloaded at the same time."

JAZZ IN THE PARK AT BRYNGARW

RIGHT: Sylvia Strand, is on vocals with the Pen-Pych Trio, who will be playing in the park on Sunday.



AS part of the annual 'Music in the Garden' event, Rhonda based Pen-Pych Trio will be playing mellow, jazz standards mixed in with original tracks at Bryngarw Country Park in Brynmynyn, Bridgend on Sunday, August 14 from 2.30pm-4.30pm.

The trio features Sylvia Strand (vocals), Jon Gregory (drums) and Jo Scullin (piano).

Other dates: Sunday, August 21 - Roots fusion with Derek Smith (Mabon) and friends; Sunday, August 28 - Light classical with Absolute Zero Viola Quartet.

Admission is free with a car park charge of £2.50 for all events.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS

Leavers' assembly

MRS CLAIRE DALE, headmistress of Brynmynyn Primary School, told the leavers' assembly audience of parents, governors and friends of the school that the children had written the story of the concert themselves.

She had not seen the finished product and was looking forward to the performance.

The show began with solos by a violinist and a pianist. Then we were invited to take part in 'Brynmynyn's Got Talent'. 'Ant and Dec' were comperes; the 'judges' were David, Michael, Amanda and Simon (the children taking these parts changed from time to time). The audience were told when to clap, cheer and boo.

The acts involved a solo 'You Raise me Up' without accompaniment, a hip-hop dance routine and several dance and mime routines to recorded music.

The finale saw all the leavers singing 'Don't Stop Believing'. This was a talented and fun performance and the children all seemed to enjoy themselves - the audience certainly did.

This was followed by the main event of the morning - the annual Sarah Jane Howells remembrance awards, which have taken place in leavers' assemblies since 1954.

Sarah Jane Howell was a young school teacher in Brynmynyn at the time the school was held in the Parish Hall in Tondur.

On a winter's day, 100 years ago a boy pupil fell into the river while trying to recover the football.

Sarah Jane Howells, with no thought for her own safety, jumped in and pulled him to the river bank where he was lifted to safety. Unfortunately, she lost her footing, was swept away and drowned.

Brynmynyn primary keeps the memory of Sarah Jane Howells alive with awards to school leavers each year.

AWARD WINNERS

Science award, Brandon Nyman; Maths award, Ioan Morris; language, Bethan Thomas; Yolande Osborne

(deceased community councillor and school governor) art award, Tommy Phillips; swimming achievement award, Adele Callard; Elwin Jones (an ex-headteacher) sport award, Cory Jenkins for his achievements in rugby; Emma Robbins award for endeavour; Jasmine Thomas; Islwyn Thomas (former headteacher of 16 years); handwriting ability award, Ellie Edwards; headteacher's award for most courteous and helpful pupil, Meg Lloyd; Sarah Jane Howells award, Ellie Edwards.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Mrs Dale had another special presentation to make to Mrs David Jenkins, a volunteer, as a thank you for all her help in school every Friday.

All the school leavers in Brynmynyn received a dictionary from the PTFA, presented by the current headteacher and Mr Islwyn Thomas, who retired as headteacher in July 2010.

Mr David Jenkins, chair of governors, thanked the children for their performance and congratulated Mrs Clafield (teacher for year-6) on the excellence of the children's achievements.

All the present school leavers from Brynmynyn will be starting in September at the new school called Gateway to the Valleys.

The children finished with a spirited version of the hymn 'One More Step along the Road I go' and the school song 'Brynmynyn is the School for me'.

Charity concert

I HAVE received a message from Ryan Wood, who once again is organising an annual concert at St Michael's church, Maesteg, on September 24 at 7pm.

Ryan believes that the concert gives everyone the opportunity to remember loved ones. It also helps raise much needed funds for the Cancer Research charity.

Gardening club meets

LADY members of the Laleston Gardening Club recently held their final evening meeting of the season where everyone enjoyed the banquet of buffet food.

It had been intended that the ladies enjoyed a game of Boules, but because of the inclement weather it was postponed. Instead, everyone enjoyed a quiz which was hosted by Mrs Joan Rule.

During August, members will still be meeting on Thursday and Saturday, so that necessary maintenance can be carried out on the premises (new replacement doors are to be fitted to the store shed).

On Saturday, August 13, members will be going on an outing to Bath, where it is planned to have a boat trip on the river Avon, and a journey on a steam-driven train, followed by a strawberry and cream tea.

Preparations for the annual show in September are progressing well, and schedules

are now available for members, with a large range of categories for their entries.

Until September, the gardening club has agreed that its premises can be used by Bethel Chapel for Sunday services, while work to extend the chapel is taking place.

Foodbank

THIS necessary charity was recently nominated by Sainsbury's supermarket as its charity of the year.

Donations of food can be deposited in the collection box on the wall behind the checkouts. On July 15, the charity held a collection at the store where it received 290 kilograms of food and donations totalling £85.

Demand rocketed for food supplied to the needy during June, being provided to 208 of whom 69 were children; 39 per cent of the vouchers issued were because of delays in the recipients receiving their wages or benefit payments; 33 per cent of vouchers were to recipients who had had benefit cuts, become unemployed, suffered illness, homelessness or domestic violence; 29 per cent were issued to those on low incomes.

In the same period, the charity received 375kg of food and purchased 907kg from cash donations received to keep pace with this demand.

At the moment, the foodbank is short of tinned fish and meats, tinned pastas and vegetables, breakfast cereals and custards, and cash donations are also welcome.

The charity is open at: 79A, Nolton Street, Bridgend, on Monday and Tuesday 10am to 2pm and Friday 11.30am to 2pm, telephone 01656 858713.

St David's church, Betws, on Wednesdays 9am to 11am, telephone 07530 553195. Community church, North Cornelly, Thursday 1pm to 3pm, telephone 07535 780213. Griffin Park Community Centre, Porthcawl, Friday 10am to 12pm, telephone 07874 397599.

Congratulations! To Reverend Olwen Parry and Eurof of the parish of Llansantffraid, Betws and Aberkenfig, who will be celebrating their Ruby wedding anniversary on Sunday, August 14.

Church collection

MEMBERS of St Tydfwg's church, Glynogwr, advise anyone who would like to

donate money to help the starving people in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, that there is a collection box located near to the font.

Donations will be passed on to the charity Christian Aid.

Garden party OGMORE Valley Ladies Choir and Society held a garden party in the home of Clive and Lydia Davies.

From the sale of home cooked items, consisting of cakes, pasties and pies of every shape and size, they raised the magnificent sum of £1,640. This will go toward their charity of the year - heart monitoring machines to be located in the doctors' surgeries in Nantymoel and Ogmere Vale.

The choir rehearses in Ogmere Vale Welfare Hall on Monday evenings from 6.30pm and new members are most welcome.

Young recruits

THE secretary of Cór Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male voice choir) Dixie Dean, is recruiting young singers to form a youth branch to the choir.

Any young lad aged between 7-17 is welcome to join. Firstly, they must obtain permission from their parents, who can obtain more information by telephoning 01656 870304 days, 01656 871954 evenings. At present Dixie has recruited a dozen members.

The male voice choir rehearses in Pontycymer RFC, Oxford Street on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7pm. New members are most welcome, there is no voice test or audition.

Free courses

THE Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme charity located in Dunraven Place, Bridgend, is offering training to the unemployed aged 16 upwards, with no upper age limit by holding a series of free one-day courses for a period of eight weeks, September 20-November 8 between 10.30am and 3pm.

Pastor Chris Bluto of Horeb Baptist Chapel, Nantymoel, informs residents that there will be a film night at the chapel on Saturday, August 20 at 6pm with a showing of the film Fireproof.

Everyone is welcome and there will be refreshments at the end. For more details, call Pastor Bluto, 01443 675424.

It's showtime!

CALLING all Miri Mieri young gardeners - it's showtime, so come along and enter the Llantwit Major Horticultural Society show on Saturday (August 13).

Show off the fruit and vegetables that you've grown, arrange some flowers, create funny animals from fruit and veg, and best of all, make a miniature garden.

All the children's classes are free to enter,

and there are plenty of prizes!

If the show has inspired you, come and join us on Sunday, August 14 (10.30am - 12.30pm) at Miri Mieri family garden (near Llantionian Hall). All ages welcome; children must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult.

Enquiries to 01446 790407 or 07804 624795.

ANNIE PAINE

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Madeleine Moon MP, Kay John, chair Pyle CC, Helen Stevens (Nathan's mother), Nathan Stevens and Barry Stevens (Nathan's father).



Paula James (on the left) talking to Nathan Stephens and his family on arriving at the fun day.



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by **Richard Sims**

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Opencast danger

BCBC councillor Clive James, along with local Pyle community councillors Kay John (chair), Luke Ellis (vice-chair) and Paula James, met with First Minister, Bridgend AM, Carwyn Jones, to voice their concerns and to remind people of the dangers posed at the disused opencast site bordering Kenfig Hill.

In letters to Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot planning authorities, Pyle Community Council has expressed concerns over the perimeter safety and on-site arrangements, calling on officials to provide a contact number to report any tres-

passers, or ramblers who may get lost and inadvertently stray onto the site.

Coun Paula James said: "We must all be vigorous in warning our children and grandchildren to stay away from the mine, especially now, during the school holidays, when they have time on their hands to roam, as it's an extremely dangerous place where they should not go exploring."

Community vice-chair, Coun Luke Ellis also said: "The safety of all local children is a top priority for this council and we are keen to establish who remains responsible for onsite security and safety now that the operational life of the site has ceased."



In the picture are: Clive James (BCBC councillor), Luke Ellis (vice-chair Pyle CC), Kay John (chair Pyle CC), Paula James (Pyle CC) and Carwyn Jones, First Minister and Bridgend AM (front).

We will also continue to ensure that residents are kept fully informed.

Carwyn Jones called for a commonsense approach, adding: "I am pleased that Pyle CC are bringing this matter to the public's attention and are seeking assurances from the planners about what levels of safety are being implemented on the site."

He said that he would urge everyone to stay well away from the boundary of the now

disused site and indeed any quarry workings, industrial sites, disused commercial or military buildings.

Citizens Advice

Bureau THE Bridgend Citizens Advice Bureau, with the help of funding from the Big Lottery Fund, is running a project called 'Budget Better.'

It offers money management advice and training sessions and help with debt and benefit issues. Advice sessions and workshops will be held in community venues throughout the borough of Bridgend.

The purpose of the project is to help individuals and families deal with the impact of the current economic difficulties and enable them to maximise and manage their money or to minimise future debt. Hopefully, this will have a beneficial impact on the wealth, health and social well-being of themselves, their families and their communities.

The Citizens Advice Bureau is currently running these weekly advice sessions on a Thursday in the Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill from 11am to 12pm and in the Pyle Life Centre from 12pm to 1pm where the Budget Better Project can offer one-to-one 'money health check sessions'.

This includes help with increasing household income, reducing outgoings and getting the best energy deal to reduce fuel poverty.

They are also offering one-to-one help on dealing with debt and maximising income (benefit checks) as well as group sessions on all aspects of money management.

For more information, contact Sarah at Bridgend CAB on 01656 762801.

Pisgah Ladies

THE Pisgah Ladies would like to thank all those who supported them during the Kenfig Hill 'Fun Day' in helping them to raise a magnificent £660 for Motor Neurone.

Well done ladies, you have again shown what a brilliant contribution you make to the community.

The Ladies are also running a half-day trip to Llanelli on Saturday, August 20 for a look around the shops.

On their return, they will be stopping at the 'Bar Gallois' in Port Talbot for an evening meal.

For further details, or to book one of the few seats left, ring Rhian on 01656 744772.

Wellbeing Centre

THE activities being held by the Mental Health Matters Wales on Wednesday, August 17 in the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road is Valley and Vale Arts and Crafts include a workshop from 2pm to 3pm.

There is also a general social afternoon from 1pm to 5pm during which there will be various other activities.

Fun day

THE Kenfig Hill and Pyle Community fun day started off miserably, when the heavens opened up and everyone got a soaking.

However, it didn't dampen their spirits one bit. With the appearance of Paralympic field athlete, Nathan Stephens, the local boy with that most infectious smile, the rain stopped and the day went ahead as planned.

After being welcomed by Coun Gina Hooper and being presented with a slate plaque, to commemorate winning a gold medal and becoming world champion for the javelin event, by the chair of Pyle Community Council, Coun Kay John, Nathan declared the fun day open.

There were many stalls selling everything from home made cakes to hand crafted cards, all types of demonstrations, including karate on the Rugby Field and plenty to eat with the hot dog stand and ice cream van.

The organisers were delighted that a police car, fire engine and ambulance turned up in support and would like to thank all three services for allowing the children to clamber over their vehicles and at the same time allowing them to switch on the sirens and blue lights!

Everybody who participated, from stall holders to visitors had a wonderful afternoon and agreed that the whole event was a great success.

The Community Council must be con-

gratulated for devising this fun day and particular thanks must go to the clerk, Mr Harold Phillips and Coun Gina Hooper for the enormous amount of time and effort they put in to organise the event.

It certainly gave many local organisations the opportunity of

making themselves known to the public.

Congratulations to the three lucky winners of the raffle Eileen Evans, from Pyle, who won £200; Jack Davies, from Kenfig Hill, who won £100; and Michelle Hill, from Bridgend, who won £75.



The Chapman family from Kenfig Hill, at the Talbot Community Centre stall.

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Out and About with The GEM

Deputy mayor opens exhibition



Coun Kemp opened the exhibition which runs until September 5.

DEPUTY mayor of the Vale, Catherine Kemp, officially opened Barry Camera Club's photographic exhibition on August 1 at Art Central, Barry Library.

The exhibition runs from August 2-September 5, Monday to Saturday from 10am-4pm.

Photographs show a wide variety of subjects, from landscape to action prints. Visitors are welcome.

Barry Camera Club meets every Friday evening from 7pm-9.30pm between September and May at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry, CF62 6NX. New members are always welcome to attend with no obligation to join. **FC**

Llancarfan Village Show

Saturday 20th August

Space available for stall holders
Doors open 1.45pm - all welcome.

For show schedules, please call
01446 781350/781337

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What's on and where?

Barnardo's

concert
'MOVIES and Musicals', a concert in aid of Barnardo's Cymru, takes place at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on September 18 at 7.30pm.
Call 01656 815995 for details.

Summer fest

BELLAVISTA Nursing Home in Barry is organising a summer fest on August 13 at 2.30pm.

Toys, books, decorative items, electronic items, food, soft drinks and entertainment.

Cycle challenge for Stroke

BANGOR man Michael Dalton (51) is undertaking a sponsored cycle ride from north to south Wales in aid of the Stroke Association's community integration service, Bridgend, on August 13.

The service supported his father-in-law, Alan Davies, following his stroke and £600 has been raised so far.

Legion wreaths

THE Barry branch of the Royal British Legion will conduct a short wreath-laying service at Barry Memorial Cenotaph to commemorate VJ 1945 and the Battle of Kohima, on Saturday, August 13 at 10.30am.

Anyone requesting a wreath or crosses and wish to attend, please contact the Poppy Organiser, Mr Steve Whitehorn, on 07717 897579, or 01446 721054.

Fun dog show

THE Riders 2000 fun dog show, in aid of Hope Rescue, takes place on Sunday, August 14 at 2pm at The Alps, Wenvee.

Novelty classes, fancy dress, waggie tail.

Contact 029 2070 1868 for details.

Call for volunteers

TRANSITION Cowbridge, with the support of the St Aubin Nursery, are creating an edible landscape plot behind the nursery in the Old Hall Grounds.

Volunteers are welcome to join the first work day on Sunday, August 14 from 10.30am.

The plot will be mulched and a wood chip path created with a log seating area. There will be no digging and refreshments will be provided. Suitable activity for children.

For further details, call Rob or Michaela on 07712 196150.

Valeways walks

ON August 17 at 2.30pm, west from Penllyn starting from the Red Fox Inn car park, Penllyn.

Penarth show

THE Penarth Horticultural Society is now preparing for its annual Horticultural Show, on Saturday, August 20 at Penarth Leisure Centre in Cogan.

Roses, floral art, flowers, vegetables, cookery, arts and crafts and photography. Schedules can be found at various outlets around Penarth, including the Library. Closing date for entries is Wednesday.

Charity sale

THERE will be a nearly new sale at Barry Comprehensive School (opp Tesco), Port Road West, CF62 8ZJ, on Saturday, September 10, at 11am-12.30pm.

Entrance/suggested donation £1/family. Baby/children's clothes, toys, equipment (eg prams) and maternity wear.

Sellers should contact Julie on 01656 662564 by September 7, or email nctnearlynewsales@live.co.uk

Donations, cakes and raffle prizes gratefully received.

Proceeds in aid of The National Childbirth Trust Vale and Valleys branch (formerly Bridgend, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major branch), to train three breastfeeding counsellors and two antenatal teachers.

Donations welcome. Contact at <http://www.nct.org.uk/in-your-area/southwales>

Central Park comes Alive!

CENTRAL Park in Barry has played host to a free four-day festival of dance, theatre and live music.

Central Park Live featured performances from well-known local bands, dance workshops and a theatre show. The event was organised by the Vale Council, Motion Control Dance and The Vibe Experience, and it attracted hundreds of people across the four days.

Festival-goers joined dance workshops, including salsa, flamenco, hip hop and belly dancing. Local dance companies provided further daytime entertainment.

Later, the focus turned to music, with performances from popular local artists such as Shooting the Moon, Leighton Jones, The Shamones (a Ramones tribute act), The Queue and Brother Steve.

Local theatre group SWICA also took to the stage.

Charity record

SARN Harvester in Bridgend is aiming to help raise £50k for a special children's charity this month.

It is the sixth year that Harvester staff have looked to raise money for Make-A-Wish Foundation UK, with the company raising over £150,000 in total. This year team members across the UK are aiming to smash the annual record for funds raised which stands at £50,000. To help customers get involved in the fundraising, Harvester staff at the Sarn Harvester on The Derwyn will be inviting guests to make a donation to Make-A-Wish through buying a Make-A-Wish star badge.

HUNT FOR YOUNG SPORTS JOURNOS

THE England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is giving young hacks-in-the-making something to write home about during this season's Clydesdale Bank 40 (CB40) season.

The ECB is inviting Britain's budding sports reporters to demonstrate their passion for cricket by putting pen to paper in the first ever Junior Journo competition.

Young cricket fans who have a way with words, will compete to submit the best report on a Clydesdale Bank 40 game they've attended.

Winning entries will need to bowl over an expert panel of judges, including top sports reporter from The Times Patrick Kidd, England cricketer Steven Finn and England One Day Captain and Clydesdale Bank Ambassador, Alastair Cook.

The shortlisted and winning entries will be showcased on The Times online and on the website of leading kids' newspaper, First News.

The winners will receive the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to report on the Clydesdale Bank 40 final at Lords on September 17 for First News and First News TV.

A spokesperson for the ECB commented: "The Clydesdale Bank 40 is the perfect way for families to get together and enjoy a leisurely afternoon. "We're really pleased to be able to offer younger fans the chance to interact further with the game, and get an inside look at the world of sports reporting." England cricketer, Steven Finn, commented: "I have grown up with a passion for cricket and writing, so being able to combine the two and inspire young cricket fans to become the talent of the future is an amazing opportunity. "Hopefully, young fans will get even more from the game than ever before and I'm really

looking forward to reading all the entries. "As part of the Junior Journo competition, children aged 11 years and under and 12-16 can send a written or multimedia report on a Clydesdale Bank 40 game they have watched to JuniorJourno@ecb.co.uk or to Junior Journo, Marketing and Communications, England and Wales Cricket Board, Lord's Cricket Ground, London, NW8 8QZ.

Entries will need to be received before the competition closing date on September 6.

Entries will need to be received before the competition closing date on September 6.



ABOVE: Steven Finn is leading the charge to find talented sports writers.

Blood donors

THE Welsh Blood Service will be holding donation sessions in the area next month.

To view a comprehensive list of sessions, visit www.welshblood.org.uk or call 0800 252266.

September 2, mobile donation clinic, Sainsbury Store, Yderwen, Sarn, Bridgend: 10.45am-1.45pm and 3.15pm-6.30pm.

September 30, mobile donation clinic, Tesco Stores, Castle Street, Maesteg: 10.15am-12.30pm and 2pm-6pm.

To attend sessions it is advisable to make an appointment. Please call 01443 622193 or e-mail donor.appointments@wales.nhs.uk to make one.

September 12, mobile donation clinic, Tesco

Store Ltd, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend: 11.15am-1.45pm and 3.15pm-7pm.

September 23, mobile donation clinic, Sainsbury Store, Yderwen, Sarn, Bridgend: 10.45am-1.45pm and 3.15pm-6.30pm.

September 30, mobile donation clinic, Tesco Stores, Castle Street, Maesteg: 10.15am-12.30pm and 2pm-6pm.

To attend sessions it is advisable to make an appointment. Please call 01443 622193 or e-mail donor.appointments@wales.nhs.uk to make one.

September 12, mobile donation clinic, Tesco

Glaze ball

THE Glaze charity and ABM Health Board staff will host a black tie summer ball to raise funds for robotic surgery, at the Marriott Hotel, Swansea, on Saturday, August 20 at 7pm.

Tickets £40 (includes £5 direct to charity, champagne and three-course meal, plus live music).

Contact Hannah on 07920 741278, or Paul on 07768 418308.

Ty Hafan lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D682.

● The rollover, which now stands at £2,500, was not won this week.
● £2,000: 822976.
● £10: 594344; 110894; 232972; 537886;

577710; 820390; 429041; 606008; 723058; 298360; 603232; 369315.

● £5: 407805; 359913; 891336; 828683; 172170; 569853; 498528; 183905; 518731;

571865; 199247; 790169; 403300; 601739; 410368; 982381; 670468; 777900; 605529; 135729; 112270; 113892; 223608; 682336; 626788; 188263; 137979; 473275; 679914; 907864; 709684; 329144.

372499; 403838; 243127; 742794; 767347; 768371; 408804; 372077; 178770; 441482; 486832; 181609; 792180; 220031; 591605; 618540; 529482; 514158; 884810; 471834; 752120; 662691;

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The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2067 2062.

'A MESMERISING, CHARMING FILM THAT HITS ALL THE RIGHT NOTES'

ABRAMS' SUPER 8 IS SUPER GREAT!

HAVING established himself as television's golden child, after producing the likes of *Fringe*, *Alias* and *Lost*, JJ Abrams' journey to the big screen has been similarly successful.

Bringing the *Mission: Impossible*

franchise back to life with a lively third outing, and then rebooting Kirk and co. spectacularly with *Star Trek*, as well as his producing duties on the likes of *Cloverfield*, Abrams is hot property right now, and his latest film, *Super 8*, comes with the production patronage of Steven Spielberg.

Set in 1979, it tells the story of a group of youngsters (including Joel Courtney, Elle Fanning and Riley Griffiths) who are making their own zombie film. However, when a train crash at the station where they are filming unleashes something into their town, the youngsters try to find

out what is going on, while shadowy air force personnel comb through the area...

It is no surprise that Steven Spielberg is producing *Super 8* given that it appears to be a film that makes more than a passing nod to the films the director cut his teeth on in the late 70s and early 80s.

Teenagers growing up, dysfunctional families with parental issues and aliens running amok in little town America – it could easily be *E.T.* or *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind* on the big screen.

Yet, under the direction of JJ Abrams, who also penned the script (refreshingly not based on a previous film, comic book or videogame) it feels like a love letter to Spielberg, without being too much of a photocopy.

Nailing the tone and atmosphere just right, *Super 8* is a mesmerising, charming film that harks back to that period of time where there was a degree of innocence to the world.

Of course, the setting proves crucial, these teenagers not having the luxury of playing war games on their games consoles, spending time on social networking sites or texting each other.

Instead, they are going out and making their own film (on a camera, with film!) ordinary youngsters who are suddenly thrown into an extraor-

dinary situation when a train derails.

That Abrams is able to marry the sci-fi feel of the story without losing sight of the humanity is a deft thing indeed, and while the alien aspect of the film grabs, the real meat of the story lies in the characters and their relationships with each other.

The fact that family issues are to the fore is hardly surprising, yet the script deals with them in realistic terms. It lessens the heightened dramatics and concentrates on the human element – the relationships deftly sketched by Abrams creating characters who are engaging, fallible, but never anything less than fully formed.

While the film visually pays tribute to Mr Spielberg, Abrams again implants his own identity on proceedings. The train crash itself is a wonderful set piece, wanton destruction shot through with intrigue and real stakes, while the teasing glimpses of the creature and the effect it has on the town (dogs running away, engines being taken from cars) all build up nicely to the

climax.

The primarily young cast are all excellent, from lead Joel Courtney's Joe, distanced from his father and experiencing the first pangs of love, to Elle Fanning's wonderful Alice and Riley Griffiths' tyrannical young director; while the likes of Kyle Chandler and Ron Eldard anchor the film as the parents who are having communication problems with their children.

If Abrams does make a misstep, it comes during the climax – everything coming to a head without enough resolution and a mawkishness that ironically can also be attributed to the man whose influence shapes the film. Similarly, the alien creature, when finally revealed, doesn't create as much impact as, say, the *Cloverfield* monster – it being neither some aquatic creature from the deep, nor the sort of aliens we are used to seeing on the big screen. However, the film's charm wins through in the end, creating a rarity in being a blockbuster with heart and emotion, as well as

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

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spills and thrills. It is fair to say that *Super 8* is super great!

VERDICT: A throwback to a more charming filmic time, *Super 8* is a triumph of strong script and direction and some well-tuned performances.

While the alien invasion angle plays as a backdrop to familial strife, it isn't short on spectacle and hits all the right notes. *Highly recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Cloverfield*, *Stand By Me*, *E.T.*

SPREADING THE VALE'S MESSAGE AT EISTEDDFOD



Dr Dylan Jones (executive committee chair), Cath Thomas (executive committee secretary) and helpers have been busy promoting the 2012 National Eisteddfod at this year's Eisteddfod in Wrexham.

"The promise is of a welcome to Llandow in the Vale as warm as the one at Wrexham, and an Eisteddfod as memorable as the Wrexham one is turning out to be," they commented..

MEDIEVAL OPENING

EACH Wednesday until August 24, the medieval church of Merthyr Dyfan, Barry will be open from 2pm to 4pm. Free tea and coffee will be served.

PLOUGHING MATCH

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society will hold a ploughing and hedging match on September 16 at Llanmaes Road, St Athan, CF61 2XR, by permission of Raymond Thomas, of Sutton Newydd Farm.

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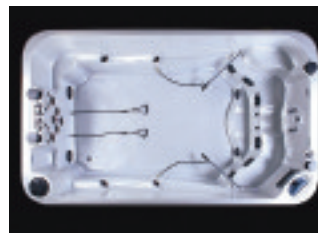
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TOWN CRIER'S COLUMN

'I FEEL LIKE I'VE RETURNED HOME'

THIS is my first column for The GEM, so may I take this opportunity to introduce myself?

My name is Mark Jones and I have recently had the honour of being appointed the official Town Crier for Cowbridge and for Porthcawl.

I was previously the Town Crier for Amersham in Buckinghamshire (where the hit TV series *Midsomer Murders* is filmed) before moving to Barry at the end of last year.

Both my parents were from Barry and many a childhood holiday was spent exploring the Vale of Glamorgan. Now I feel like I have returned home.

Having been 'blessed' with a loud voice, friends and relatives were always suggesting I would make an ideal Town Crier. A few years ago, I rose to the chal-



Mr and Mrs Town Crier!

lenge and was invited to join the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers, where my mentor was former World Champion Crier, Dick Smith, from Beaconsfield.

When on duty, I am often accompanied by my wife, Anna, otherwise known as Mrs Town Crier! In reality, she has the title of Official Town Crier's Escort.

Last weekend, we were in Porthcawl to promote the annual sea festival. We located our-

selves in John Street, and engaged the Saturday morning shoppers and tourists with our banter.

My first 'cry' of the morning certainly gained a lot of attention and I was told it could be heard far and wide!

It is amazing how many people will stop and pass the time of day with you when you are wearing a colourful costume.

If we had a pound for every photograph we had taken of us, we could start a nice little

pension fund! It is very important to keep old British traditions alive – but sadly, nowadays, many children do not know who or what a Town Crier is.

It is fun and satisfying, explaining the role of a Crier to them, but as usual on Saturday, many children thought we were pirates – quite apt for the sea festival!

One young lad even said: "Good morning, Captain Hook!" to me! That Johnny Depp has got a lot to answer for – it's just a shame I've not got his looks!

Saturday's sea festival activities were apparently very well attended and all in all, a very successful day ensued.

Unfortunately, the awful summer weather meant that Sunday's programme was cancelled.

Mrs Town Crier and I look forward to meeting you when we are next on duty. Please come and say hello.

Until then, yours in ringing tones.

MARK JONES

THREE LOCAL WAR HEROES ARE COMMEMORATED IN PENARTH

THREE local war heroes were commemorated in Penarth on August 9, following the recent addition of their names to the Alexandra Park cenotaph.

Mr Peter Jones, who lived in the town, died in action during the Korean War. His name was added at the request of local resident, Roy Goddard, himself a Korean veteran.

The names of two other men who were born in the area, Captain Richard Wain and Sgt Samuel Pearce, were also inscribed. Both died in action during the First World War.

The event was attended by Mr Goddard, three of Mr Jones's fellow veterans, his sister Eileen Cox, and Coun Geoff Cox, cabinet member for visible and building services, the Vale Council.

Coun Cox said: "These men are being recognised for the sacrifice they made for their country. The importance of their role, and indeed the role of our armed forces nationwide, cannot be underestimated."

Solar panels on offer to homes

SUSTAINABLE Wales says it is set to launch a groundbreaking community solar project, that will help provide energy resilience for homes and rejuvenate communities across Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan county boroughs.

The Bridgend-based charity is offering households in the two boroughs free pv (photo voltaic) solar panels for their homes.

These will generate an environmentally-friendly, free source of electricity for the homeowners. The scheme will also provide a funding stream to support charities and social enterprises.

Sustainable Wales is not alone in wanting to

take action against key issues such as climate change and fuel poverty. They have teamed up with a consortium of five community-focused social enterprises (G-Cel) to deliver the project in areas of south-east Wales.

Margaret Minihinnick, Director of Sustainable Wales, said: "The twin issues of climate change and fuel poverty are crucial to our society. They pose a double threat to our way of life."

"This solar scheme will help homes become more energy-resilient and help rejuvenate communities across Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan."

"In fact, the project is the first of its kind in Wales and will hopefully spread across the whole of the country and beyond."

It is only right that they are remembered here in Penarth where they and their families lived."

Mr Jones was a marine with the 41 Royal Marine Commandos. During the Korean War, the commandos were involved in amphibious attacks from the USS Navy Submarine *Perch*, but on October 1, 1950 they went ashore to destroy a major supply route on the railway.

It was during this operation that Mr Jones was killed in cross fire; he was the first British Royal Marine killed during the war.

His body was draped in the white ensign and then committed to the sea as two American destroyers fired salutes. Lieutenant Commander D Quinn ensured that the ensign was folded and later delivered to Mr Jones's mother in Penarth.

Captain Wain was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery after his tank was severely damaged in a direct hit.

Despite being severely wounded, he refused medical treatment and rushed to the back of the tank, armed only with a gun, where he successfully captured the enemy's position and took several prisoners.

He continued to fire at the retreating enemy until he was eventually killed by a sniper. His decisive actions and extreme bravery allowed his comrades to advance.

Sergeant Pearce was awarded the Victoria Cross and the Military Medal after cutting his way through enemy barbed wire under heavy machine-gun fire.

He then single-handedly charged a blockhouse, killing the occupants with bombs and allowing his comrades to advance with minimum casualties.

Moments later he was killed, but his bravery and disregard of personal danger won him the admiration of fellow troops.

Arrests made

POLICE have arrested four men following a number of thefts and burglaries in the Barry and Porthcawl areas.

The four – aged 25, 36 and two aged 16 from the Newport area – were arrested during a joint operation with Gwent Police on Monday.

They have been charged in connection with the following incidents and were remanded in custody to appear before Newport Magistrates on Tuesday: theft of a coin box from a children's ride at Caesar's Palace, Barry on June 10; burglary at The Beach Shop in Barry on June 10; burglary at O'Shea's café in Barry on June 10; burglary at 2 Eze nightclub in Barry on July 12; burglary at Big Dave's Café in Barry on July 12; damage to a security keypad at Slots of Fun in Porthcawl on July 12; burglary at The High Tide in Porthcawl on July 13.



*Park Independent
Funeral Directors
Celebrate their first year*

Park Funeral Directors marks first anniversary of serving the Vale



ABOVE: In January, Lyndsay welcomed his new trainee funeral director Bob Johnson, who he says has a real professional care for families. He and Bob had previously worked together at AG Adams & Son.

PARK Funeral Directors on Tynwydd Road, Barry is celebrating its first anniversary since becoming established in the Vale community.

Director Lyndsay Ellis, who has worked in the funeral business for more than 21 years, said: "Over the last year, we have directed more than 100 funerals."

"At the beginning, people came to us because they knew me locally, and as things have built up, we have been getting many word-of-mouth recommendations."

"Our aim is to help a family celebrate the life of their loved one."

Park Funeral Directors is an independent business with a strong belief in providing a service which

reflects the life of the loved one and respects family wishes.

"We are very proud of our independence, because it means we can go that extra mile for people."

"We are answerable to families, not managers and head offices. Our belief is you can never do too much for a family."

It means that Lyndsay and his colleagues offer as wide a range of choices as possible in how a funeral is conducted.

Lyndsay explained: "We can carry out traditional or bespoke funerals which reflect a person's life."

"Some people like the tradition of a horse-drawn hearse, some prefer limousines – and then there is the choice of coffin, music, or the way our staff are dressed."

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 13)

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Park Independent Funeral Directors Celebrate their first year



ABOVE: The Park Funeral Directors' team: back row, left to right, Morgan Olds, Ray Colley, Chris Williams, Huw Adams. Front row, left to right, Steve Davies, Lyndsay Ellis (funeral manager) Bob Johnson (funeral director) Tony Conway.



ABOVE: Park Funerals offers the option of that most traditional of British funerals – the horse-drawn hearse.



LEFT: The company has a new fleet of limousines.



LEFT: Lyndsay with the Mayor of Barry, Coun Bronwen Brooks, at a recent 'open day'.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)
He added: "One man was very patriotic and loved his rugby and the family wanted the staff to dress in Welsh rugby tops! "For the crematorium, one man with a strong sense of humour chose the song 'Great Balls of Fire'; another, Monty Python's 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life'.

"Recently, a woman, who had been in her nineties, chose Queen's 'I want to Break Free' – she'd always been the first dancing at the juke box when she'd gone out!
"Families are thrilled when they realise that we can provide something that reflects a loved one's personality, interests or hobbies."

Lyndsay, a family man married to Nicola, and with two daughters, Georgina (16) and Nikita (12) has been in the funeral business all his adult life.
He is well known in Barry from his time with AG Adams & Son on Gladstone Road, and W Spicketts in Cadoxton.
More recently, he has been asked to sit on the advisory committee for the new crematorium in the town, along with clergy and other members of the funeral profession.

He said: "It is a long-awaited facility for the Vale and when it is completed, it will be truly exceptional."
Lyndsay pointed out that for mourners in the Vale, the new crematorium will provide welcome convenience – a high-quality service to families is always upmost in his mind.
In that vein, Park Funeral Directors have acquired a new E Class Mercedes cortege fleet.
"We wanted to be able to provide people with the highest standards and the greatest comfort."

Last Christmas, the company also held a memorial service in King Square for any bereaved people who wanted to remember a loved one, and it was attended by 100 people.
This Christmas, Lyndsay says a service will take place in the new 'Garden of Reflection' on Tynewydd Road. The garden was officially opened by Barry Town Mayor, Coun Bronwen Brooks.
He said: "It is a community garden, open to all, where people can go and spend time remembering their loved ones – or in the summer some-

where for people to sit and eat their lunch quietly."
Park Funeral Directors Ltd is an accredited member of the National Association of Funeral Directors, and has been recently accepted to the Society of Bereavement Counsellors.
As an independent business with reduced overheads, the aim is to always provide an affordable funeral that limits the strain on people at an emotional time in their lives.
Lyndsay added: "We want to thank everyone who has supported us throughout our first year.
"It is our privilege to serve the community."
"Our pledge is we would never give less than we would for our own family."

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Sports stars help to 'launch' new regional rehabilitation unit



Up for a rowing challenge!

JAMES CRACKNELL OBE, British rowing champion, double Olympic gold medalist and adventurer, was at MoD St Athan to open the new regional rehabilitation unit (RRU) last week.

Spokeswoman Jane Bissett explained that the new RRU at St Athan is part of the overall defence strategy to reduce the number of Service personnel who are unfit for operational deployment and to treat those injured on operations.

"The new facility is able to provide a co-ordinated clinical management to a tri-Service population, and offer clinical services including assessment, outpatient and residential physiotherapy, and exer-

cise-based rehabilitation."

Following a short opening ceremony, James Cracknell joined Chief of Staff Health, Air Vice Marshall Christopher Morris, past and current patients to look over the facility and take part in some of the rehabilitation activities which aim to return Service personnel to operational levels of fitness as soon as possible - the 'fitter quicker' principle.

Where this is not achievable, the aim is to attain the maximum level of physical, psychological and social health.

The Welsh Pirates Wheelchair rugby team and Welsh Rugby international Ian Gough were also among the guests who couldn't resist trying out some of the facilities for them-



It's a snip, as James Cracknell opens the new unit.

selves.

The Pirates challenged the able-bodied to a game of wheelchair rugby which proved beyond any doubt that the Pirates are a force to be reckoned with! although Ian Gough did 'try' his best. Later in the afternoon, James Cracknell was to prove just what a great sport he is by agreeing to row against - all comers, including, Ian Gough.

The uplift of the

RRU means that its future at St Athan is secured. Wing Commander Lyndon Jones said: "The RRU has now become a unit in its own right and will continue with the same level of outstanding help and support for Service personnel based in Wales.

"It is through the hard work and dedication of the RRU team that the Unit has been, and continues to be, the benchmark for rehabilitation in Wales.

"I am delighted that some many people have taken the time to support the opening of this facility, as I know how important it is to the health and welfare of the military community it serves."

The RRU is a tri-Service unit and has the added advantage of having physiotherapists who are themselves ex-military, as well as a team of remedial physical training instructors, all of whom are specialists in their field.

The new RRU status recognised the continuing need for access to these services without having to travel outside Wales and would mean an enhanced service.

Countdown begins

AS the hugely successful Welsh National Eisteddfod in Wrexham draws to a close this year, attention will now turn to the Vale of Glamorgan where the 2012 festival will be held.

The Proclamation Ceremony, marking the official launch of next year's event, took place on June 25 in Gladstone Gardens, Barry.

Hundreds of people joined the Gorsedd of the Bards, local schoolchildren and community leaders as they made their way through the town centre in a spectacular procession.

The Vale Council has now moved its attention to the festival itself, which will take place in Llandow from August 4-11, 2012.

As one of the most culturally important festivals in the world, the Eisteddfod is a significant opportunity to showcase what the county has to

offer. The council points out that from award-winning parks and blue flag beaches, to the attractions of Barry Island and some great pubs and restaurants, "there's something for everyone in the Vale".

Coun Rhodri Traherne, cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, said: "I am very pleased indeed to be able to welcome the Eisteddfod to the Vale of Glamorgan."

"The Eisteddfod is a hugely important national, cultural festival and the Vale of Glamorgan Council is determined to ensure that 2012 Eisteddfod is a truly special, successful and memorable occasion."

Eisteddfod organisers have produced a wealth of merchandise and posters to help promote and raise funds for 2012. More information can be found on the council's website, along with monthly newsletters.

OLD AND YOUNG FLOCK TO THE VALE SHOW...

The Vale Show was getting off to a bright start when Paul Jones took his camera on an early walkabout among the crowds of interested spectators yesterday. See next week for more pictures and full results from what is predicted to be a record annual show.

Photographs by
PAUL JONES
www.valeevents.co.uk



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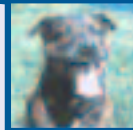
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Underpass cleaned up by helpful fire-fighters

FIRE FIGHTERS were seen hosing everything down on Saturday morning in Porthcawl – but there was no fire for them to fight or even a heatwave to cool down!

They were helping members of the Porthcawl Shout Forum to clean the walls of the John Street to Station Hill underpass, ready for the installation of the new artwork created by senior students at the comprehensive school and the Pinkdiesel graphics studio in Bridgend.

A Forum spokesperson said: "They were fantastic and we are extremely grateful for all the help, hard work and expertise they have given to this community project to improve the town."

"Funding is from WAG and the BCBC Highways are providing help with the project, taking away broken and unwanted items, cutting back hedges, repairing the fence and attending to lots of small things. We are very pleased with their interest in this project."

The art theme is the Hawaiian Hibiscus flower that is synonymous with surfing and is to be called Hibiscus Walk.

The whole area next to the bus station is to be landscaped by BCBC, who will cut away all the bushes and briars, as there has been a problem with vermin and the whole area will be grassed around the remaining trees.

Phase two will follow later this year, which will focus on the Station Hill entrance and will be funded by the Town Council.



Caerau youth game marks relaunch of the Ball Park



ON Monday, August 8, Caerau Neighbourhood Policing Team donned their football kit to play a youth side from the local Youth Works.

The match marked the re-launch of Caerau Ball Park, which was officially opened in 2010.

The site is designed to give youths a safe environment in which they can practice a range of ball sports and enjoy themselves.

Located at the top of Blaencaerau Estate, the park consists of a fenced tarmac area, which has facilities to play basketball, netball, football and hockey and also provides seating for subs and coaches.

Local PCSO Bella Rees commented:

"The opportunity to play sport which has been provided to young-

sters through this facility is fantastic.

"It allows youth a specially designated area where they can both practice technique and

also enjoy time with their friends. We encourage all the children at Caerau to come and check it out."

The next youth com-

munity football match is being played on August 22 at 12.30pm and everybody is welcome to join in.

Wildmill community enjoy a get-together!

WILDMILL kicked off its summer activities programme with a joint venture between V2C, residents and Communities First.

The community came together to revamp some tired and old boulders and a wall sited on an area of land in Maes Y Felin in July.

The project was part of a pilot scheme with V2C, where residents were invited to have a walkabout with a V2C representative, and have their say on how they thought the physical environment could be enhanced.

A local resident, Helena Channin, worked with Communities First to find volunteers to assist with the project. Over 30 children and young people attended with their parents from all

parts of Wildmill to lend a hand.

The children enjoyed the painting so much, they were even using their hands as paint brushes!

Helena stated: "I'd like to thank Tracey Everton for the brilliant designs on the boulders."

On August 1, local group WATRA (Wildmill Tenants & Residents Association) organised a painting session at the Community Park, known as 'The Adventure' and supplied all volunteers with a free barbecue, crisps and refreshments.

Gaynor Hayes, chair of the group, said: "It was a very successful day. I would like to thank all the people who attended and I'm sure I speak for them all, when I give thanks to Sasha Ufnowska, who created the wonderful design."



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Local young people who disprove negative image

IN VIEW of current negative images surrounding young people, I would like to take this opportunity to say how proud I am to be a new governor of Bryn Hafren school and to be present at their award ceremony in the Memorial Hall, Barry, recently.

I am pleased that I live in a different world to that we see portrayed every day on TV.

The children in our schools today are no different to us (in my case) all those years ago when we were in school.

Most of the girls in Bryn Hafren are neither rude nor lazy, and very few are ever badly behaved. A small minority may have their moments, but then didn't we all, in our time? However, most of the children I see are a delight. They are polite, caring and sup-

portive of each other, are hardworking and genuinely want to do well in school and in life.

It was a good night, where we had a chance to celebrate the vast majority of children, who always give of their best and always try their hardest.

The school has had a brilliant year, with lots of success.

They have had excellent A-level results, with more than ever going on to study in universities, both near and far – their stage-3 results again showing record performances.

However, understandably, the press only picked up the GCSE grades which are benchmarking at the highest levels, well above most schools in south Wales.

I would like to thank all the parents for supporting their daughters. The head said that it is a three-way partnership – home, pupil and school.

The teaching staff need a mention for all the excellent work they undertook again this

year. I believe our staff are very dedicated and always go that extra mile and the jewel in our schools in the Vale.

Bryn Hafren also has a large range of sporting talents among the pupils, with county and national successes in athletics, netball, football, martial arts, gymnastics, etc. The overall demand for sport is up. A visible benefit is the AstroTurf.

Their school production of the *King and I* won an award for the best school performance in Wales. In the autumn, they will be performing the *Wizard of Oz*.

Bryn Hafren school improvements include complete re-design of five art classrooms, a new hair and beauty salon, upgrades to rooms, such as the lesser hall, and several sets of pupil toilets, and a long overdue new reception.

It does not stop there,

they are currently mid-way through refits of all their labs and planning to improve technology.

I have mentioned the school and some of their successes.

However, school is not just about sport, performing arts, or even academic subjects.

Bryn Hafren link closely with the community they serve, providing gifts for vulnerable and elderly at Christmas.

They work with our local care home and partner primary schools.

I would also like to say how proud we should be that our children give their time, energy and money for deserving causes, locally, nationally and all over the world.

Well done to all the pupils, staff, and especially the headmaster. **Coun Janice Charles, Barry**

'Closure of home unacceptable'

THE decision taken by the Vale Council (or rather, by the political party that has the majority of voting members) to close day care centres for older people is surely unacceptable.

This appears to be a cost-cutting exercise that will deprive those who attend Gardenhurst in Penarth and Rondel House in Barry of essential support. Harmful consequences are inevitable.

Vulnerable older people are not always able to express their opinions forcibly enough to affect such decisions, unlike parents dealing with the threatened withdrawal of school road patrol staff.

Particularly insensitive are the impersonal letters sent to day care centre users, proposing an assessment of their needs – difficult to comprehend and intimidating in effect.

Numerous bodies exist purporting to safeguard the interests of older people, who form a majority of the population in the Vale.

In Wales, these include the office of the Commissioner for Older People, and a Forum for Older People in each local authority, both initiated by the Welsh Government.

There is also the Equality and Human

Rights Commission with its Welsh office in Cardiff and a Champion for Older People in the cabinet of the Vale Council.

It is noticeable that the council's scrutiny committee appears to have ignored the issue.

These institutions, financed by all of us, have particular responsibility for the welfare of older people.

How is it that there has been no coherent or effective protest by these bodies about the decision to close these essential services?

It is claimed that consultations have taken place; in fact, the executive committee of our Older People's Forum had not been made aware of the council's proposal.

There is also a Vale Equalities Forum that meets quarterly, where the topic could have been an appropriate agenda item.

The need for the existence of local authorities in England has been questioned: in Wales,

This is not the case, but the generous remuneration of senior officials does undermine the validity of the opinion of those who seek to justify cuts in basic facilities for older people in the Vale, for the benefit of a financial situation created by the banking industry.

Mrs Audrey Jones, Dinas Powys

'Let us entertain you!' at Central Park, Barry



PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS
www.valeevents.co.uk

'CENTRAL PARK LIVE' arrived in Barry from August 4-7, bringing dance, music and theatre performances to the town.

It was an ideal showcase for local dancers and actors to demonstrate their talents.

The four day festival was also an opportunity for local youngsters to get involved and learn a new style of dance or to see whether the acting bug was for them.

As you can see from the images captured by local photographer Andy Wicks, people were happy to go on stage – and happy to relax in the sun and watch them!



Move to honour the heroes who died for their country in the Korean war

I AM acting on behalf of the authorities at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan, South Korea, where over 800 British servicemen are at rest.

The authorities wish to obtain photographs of those servicemen interred there, and also those who died but have no known grave.

These photographs will be attached to their records and also displayed in the cemetery hall of remembrance.

The following are just a few of the young men from Glamorgan who

gave their lives in Korea – Pte Harold Jones, Pte Kenneth J Partis, L/Cpl Llewellyn Williams, Gnr Allen W Russell, Capt George HF Beith, Kgn Gwynne P Goodfield, Pte John B Hawkins, Acm Ernest R Ripley (RN), Cpl Joseph O Lewis.

Any family who lost a loved one in the Korean war 1950-53 and wishes to take part, can send the photograph to me, or contact me by telephone for further details: 102 College Croft, Eccles, Greater Manchester, M30 0AN; telephone 0161 789 7633.

James Grundy, (British Korean Veterans Association)

Council's projected recycling performance 'are they joking?'

A TRUE story for you: Not so long ago, when I was new to the area, I phoned up the council to find out how recycling worked in Barry.

I was told that I had to use these little tubs to put my dry recycling in. This made me laugh.

How was I going to get all my recycling into that? After all, in my previous home town in Nottinghamshire, we had an additional wheellie bin for our recycling.

The lady was very nice and tried to be helpful, she told me that I should use supermarket bags to put the remainder in.

This I thought was just incredible. The council was telling me to put the dry recycling into plastic supermarket bags, which are in themselves environmentally unfriendly and in October, the Welsh Government will start charging me for them, to encourage me to stop using them!

When I asked her if they had any of those tubs, she apologised and said there was none available! I then phoned the council a week later, to ask that if I bought a black bin from B&Q and

wrote recycling on it, would they collect the dry recycling from that? The answer was no!

When I think of these events, it is of no surprise to me that the council cannot reach its target and it makes me extremely angry to hear council officials blaming the public for their failure.

I welcome the news that there will now be a weekly collection to help the council reach its target of 52 per cent recycling for 2012, but whenever I think about those little green tubs it still makes me laugh.

To Coun Geoff Cox, Mr Miles Punter and Mr Clifford Parish, who all wrote sections in the advert for the council in last week's GEM, I say this: How can a council claim to be working closely with the Welsh Government on these issues and then encourage local people to disregard Welsh Government policy on plastic bags?

I know money is tight and that they will probably not be able to replace the green tubs, but how about meeting people half way and allowing us to use our own bins marked accordingly!?

Anything has got to be better than those ridiculous tubs.

Nicholas Hill, Barry

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Homes plan for village of St Mary Church

NEWYDD Housing Association has applied to build eight affordable semi-detached homes in the Vale village of St Mary Church.

Land at the Herberts has been available for some time, and the application says that landscaping, high-way and engineering works will be included in the plan.

Microgeneration: the way to make renewables pay

IN an effort to encourage microgeneration, the Government introduced the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) scheme last year, whereby you are paid by your energy provider for generating clean energy from renewables such as solar PV.

The scheme is designed, and FITs calculated, to give roughly a 10-year return on initial investment, but the FITs are paid for 25 years and linked to RPI.

This provides dual protection from rising energy costs and inflation for 25 years!

Joining the microgeneration revolution is as easy as having solar panels fitted to your roof. Most systems generate half the average domestic yearly consumption of electricity.

If you have a good view of the southern sky, you could reap the rewards of free electricity, help the country meet its environmental targets and know that your investment will leave a lasting positive contribution.

As an example, an £8,500, 2.3kw system, optimally sited, should generate around 2,000 kw per year.

According to OFGEM, the medium domestic consumption is 3,300 kw annually. Your energy supplier will pay you the clean energy cash-back of around £850 per year and assuming you use half of what you generate, you will also reduce your bills by around 25 per cent.

If you adapt how you consume electricity, you could save much more. Small things, like using the washing machine in the daytime, could make a big difference.

Most home improvements are expensive, but justified by the benefits they bring. By installing a renewable energy system, such as solar PV, you could be generating free energy and income, while saving on your bills and reducing your impact on the environment – benefits we can all appreciate.

Nice tomatoes, but check out my electricity! By Richard Mordey

Home produce can mean more than just courgettes and tomatoes. For many, generating your own electricity using solar panels is at least as important, just as supermarket food is synonymous with pesticides, electricity has become associated with pollution from nuclear spills or carbon emissions. The answer may lie with renewable energies such as the sun and wind. Fitting solar pv (photo-voltaic) panels to your roof can slash your energy bills and give returns far higher than savings or even bonds. The chance to produce clean, green energy may be enough on its own, though. The first step on this path is to contact an MCS accredited installer who will give advice about what size and type of system is suitable for your needs. Having chosen a system, installation should take only two or three days. With your electricity supplier contacted and your claim processed, there's plenty of time to get back to the garden while you harvest the sun from your roof. For more advice go to www.urbansolar.org.uk

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The Kenfig community – young and old – turns out to enjoy rugby club's fun day!

KENFIG HILL RFC hosted its fun day on August 6, and it was an opportunity for the local community, of all ages, to get together and enjoy both sporting and entertainment attractions.

For the young boys, the most exciting part of the day was taking part in the rugby tournament, and dreaming of one day pulling on the Welsh shirt in a Rugby World Cup!

PHOTOGRAPHS by RANDELL JOHN

(Available for purchase from
www.RandellJohnPhotography.com or
telephone 01656 662324, 07905 676241)



Rugby is one of the attractions as teams from south Wales attend Pencoed festival

PENCOED rugby festival, which ran from August 5-7, provided dozens of attractions, including bouncy castles, fairground rides, an outdoor pool, tug of war (for those who believe they are still fit), and a host of stalls.

Of course, rugby remained the centre-piece of the occasion, with teams competing in the festival rugby from across Wales.

PHOTOGRAPHS by
PAUL JONES
www.valeevents.co.uk



RAIN FAILS TO DAMPEN TRAINER TIM'S OWNERS' DAY AT ABERTHIN

ON AND OFF THE TURF
with **Brian Lee**

HEAVY showers on Sunday failed to dampen Aberthin trainer Tim Vaughan's owners' day – and enthusiasts turned up in their hundreds at Pant Wilkin Stables to see the inmates of this successful yard paraded by Tim's happy band of stable lads and lasses.

Tim, a former Welsh champion point-to-point rider, said: "Since I started training, my aim was to achieve the maximum performance from each and every horse, whatever their ability, while ensuring owners enjoyed the whole experience of racehorse ownership."

The big race successes of *Saint Are*, *Spirit Of Adjisa* and *Beshabar*, Tim says, "will surely prove to have as significant an impact in terms of promoting our yard and maintaining our rise through the ranks of the National Hunt Trainers' Championship."

Beshabar, which won the Scottish Grand National, is being trained with next year's Aintree Grand National in mind, and if this chesnut gelding were to win the world's greatest steeplechase, he would be the first horse actually trained in Wales to win since *Kirkland* was successful in 1905.

Tim was keen to praise his staff and last season, the stable sent out 92 jumps winners, 82 seconds and 62 thirds, not forgetting the five winners on the flat.

Tim has just launched his Tim Vaughan Racing Club 2011-12 and for further details, telephone 01446 771626 or email tim@timvaughanracing.com



PHOTOGRAPHS by
MIKE WILCOCK



TIM VAUGHAN



As the pictures on this page show, it was an owners' day to savour for employees and the public alike!

Gordon Bennett, the stars have come out!



Cliff Jones, Andrew Anstee, Tony Spear and Ron Harris.

GORDON BENNETT'S of Broad Street, Barry, hosted their annual presentation night on August 4 when winners of competitions received awards from two of football 'greats'.

Cliff Jones (The Welsh Wizard) was Tottenham Hotspur's third highest goal scorer to date and also played against Pele in the World Cup for Wales, and if that was not enough for the football faithful, also present was Ron 'Chopper' Harris, former captain of Chelsea.

Joint winners of last year's KGB Trophy, Double A and Tony Spear also each received prize money of £310.

Tony, who works for the Barry Council, said: "I was overwhelmed by the whole occasion, not only winning the trophy for the second time around, but beating my work colleague, Steven

Adulla yet again, well that gave me great pleasure!"

Andrew Anstee said: "It was a great night and winning the money was a bonus. The wife wanted a new outfit, so the £310 will come in handy to help pay towards the cost of her new shoes to go with it!"

THE WINNERS

Sian Mcnicol – Autumn rugby international; *Stuart Humphries* – 6 Nations rugby champion; *Ben Bennett* – King of the punters football predictions; *Paul Germon* – winner of the 6 Nations rugby shirt draw; *Jeanette Jeffrey* – crash champion; *Beefy Dowson* – King horse racing tipster; *Gordon Bennett's Heroes* – winners of the Gordon Bennett Cup.

KGB Trophy Tournament 2010 – 2011: Joint 1st Double A and Tony Spear; 3rd Mikey Bryl, 4th Steve Jones and 5th Allan Gratton.



PLYLE & KENFIG GOLF CLUB ROUND-UP

£225 raised by ladies in local charity game



LADY captain Liz Attwood thanked Kay Sinclair for sponsoring the Sinclair charity game, where £225 was raised for the lady captain's nominated charity, the Emyr Owen Branch of LATCH.

The winners of The Sinclair Trophy were: Sue Forbes, Sue Richards, Jacqui Jones and Ros Williams.

Third team report

WE reported recently that the third team had played three home matches and won them all.

We have now played seven games and the last four have been away matches. We have won one of these games and lost three, but two of these by a very narrow margin.

The teams we have played are Gower, St Athan, Clyne and Southerndown. We beat St Athan away and lost to the other three.

Once again the members of the third team, Ros Williams, Heather Jenkins, Kay Sinclair, Lucy Evans and Hannah Johnson, plus our totally committed reserves, Gaynor Lavelle, Margaret Wood and Teri Ward, have given 100 per cent to the third team.

Also ready to alter their working day and domestic arrangements, if needed at the last moment to stand in, have been Jackie Jones, Cath David and Anita Evans; my grateful thanks to all these ladies.

We have three games remaining this season - at home against Southerndown and Clyne and away against Brynhill.

Currently we are top of our league, which we are all delighted about. We are confident we can maintain this position as two of the matches remaining are home games. If we can win against Brynhill as well it would be terrific and really strengthen our position.

Good luck to all in the third team.



Winners of the Texas Scramble.

Kay (Third team captain) Scramble raises funds

PLYLE and Kenfig ladies had terrific fun raising £263.50 for Breast Cancer - the winners of the Texas Scramble were Dianne Hubbard, Norma Forman, Ann Thomas, and Sue Richards.

A great day was had by all, dressed in pink to miss being 'fined', and with much humour having to pay up for each bunker entered!

Hannah's hole-in-one!

HANNAH JOHNSON has landed a hold-one on the course.

Studying Sports B Tech at The Neath, Llandarcy College, she is the daughter of Brian Johnson, who was an assistant professional.

At the beginning of 2010, Hannah's handicap was 26, but she is currently playing off a handicap of 17. She has achieved this by her experiences of playing with the South Wales Girls, and at the moment is competing in various junior open days. Last week, she won the girls Open at Carmarthen.

Hannah also represents Pyle and Kenfig, playing in the second team, and plays for the college team.

As far as we are aware, Hannah is the first Junior to have had a hole-in-one at P & K. **DPH**



Hannah Johnson.



Lady captain Liz Attwood.

Juniors win Rhys Davies trophy

RHYS DAVIES is a gifted young golfer from Royal Porthcawl who has been making his mark on the European Tour where he has already won an event and had several top 10 places.

In the inaugural event, open to junior teams from the seven clubs in the borough of Bridgend, the winners were Pyle & Kenfig with an aggregate score of 410 points, an excellent score in the windy conditions at Porthcawl. The Grove was second, five points behind, who won the Rhys Davies Plate.

Rhys could not make it back from his tour commitments to attend the function, but his father kindly acted as substitute and presented the prizes at the evening dinner that followed the golf.

P&K also had success in the individuals. In the gross score category, Brad Young came second with a score of 78, one shot behind winner Gareth Howell.

The best net was won Rhodri Booth with 72, and third was Cameron Morris with 73, both from P&K.

P&K was represented by Jamie Jones (captain), Bradley Young, Tom Furneaux, Leon McNally, Tom Easterbrook, Rhodri Booth, with Cameron Morris and Zac Thackery.

A warm welcome awaits you at Pyle & Kenfig whether or not you have played golf before. There are several initiatives to introduce and develop golfers and would-be golfers.

JACK McKEE

Bridgend swimmers flying high in British rankings

BRIDGEND County has finished the season flying high with a potential olympic triathlete for 2012, and five swimmers in the top 10 in Great Britain!

Bridgend swimmers have had an extremely successful time, with nine swimmers competing in Sheffield in the British age and youth championships in Sheffield.

First up was Cameron Jones in the 100 backstroke where he swam a personal best time to improve his British ranking from 28th to 14th, and missed the final by 0.3s.

Cameron swam again in the 200 backstroke where he was ranked 15th in Great Britain going into the meet.

In the heat, he smashed his personal best time to make the final.

He finished fifth in the final with another personal best time, and he was less than a second away from the medals.

Ffion Wareham in her second British nationals swam a great race to make her first-ever British national final.

Ffion finished ninth in the final with another great display.

Laura Ashton qualified for her first British nationals open water competition.

From achieving a qualifying time from the pool event, Laura braved the 17 degrees in the lake without a wetsuit to finish in fourth position. A great display, as Laura had never swum in these conditions before.

Bridgend qualified for the 4 x 200 freestyle relay, with three of the girls out of age.

The girls were Katie Rees, Jessica Sutton, Laura Ashton and Ffion Wareham. The girls swam a great race and improved their best team time and improved their rankings.

In the youth section, we had four swimmers qualify. They were Emilie James, Bethan Sloan, Luke Parkes and Josh Thomas, although Josh did not swim due to an injury.

These swimmers had a lot to follow as all swimmers achieved personal best times in the age group nationals.

Emilie James swam in the 200 backstroke to achieve a personal best time, and make her first national semi-final.

In the semi-final,

Emilie improved again to make her first British final.

In the final, Emilie came tenth. This was the first time Emilie had swum heats, semi, and then finals. Emilie also improved her best times in the 100 backstroke, and was 1.5 seconds away from the final in the 400 individual medley final.

Luke Parkes swam personal best times, and was very close to making the semi-finals on both events.

Bethan Sloan came to the British Nationals for the first time. Bethan swam the 200 breaststroke first, and improved by nearly six seconds to make the semi-finals.

In the semi-finals, she improved another second to make the final.

In the final, she went faster again to finish sixth. In the 100 breaststroke event, Bethan also improved her best times to make the semi-final and then the final.

She was a second away from the medals in a close race, but had improved by three seconds to get to where she was.

The Welsh summer open championships, which had swimmers from all over the coun-

try, were also an extremely successful competition for the squad, with many of the Bridgend swimmers achieving medals, finals and personal best times.

Gold medal winners were Chloe Laforges in the 50 and 100 breaststroke and third in the 100 butterfly. Clair Waters won the 100 freestyle, and Cameron Jones won the 400 individual medley.

Other medallists were Laura Ashton (two silvers), Zoe Mountjoy (silver), Morgan Sutton (silver), Helen Fussey (bronze), and finalists were Lily Hines, Katie Rees, Anna Morgan, Ffion Wareham and Christian Davis.

To top the season off, Helen Jenkins won the London triathlon in style and has now put herself in a great place for qualification for the London Olympics in 2012. Helen is now fourth in the world rankings for 2011!

This year Phil Melhuish, the head coach, could not be happier with the progress and success of the county squad.

PM

Bridgend athletes make their mark at wide range of events

ON July 2, the AVIVA Welsh Schools Championships were held at Penlan Athletics Track, Brecon.

Athletes from all over Wales travelled to compete in the schools most prestigious event of the year and Bridgend athletes once again performed brilliantly, winning a total of seven gold medals, six silver medals and six bronze medals.

These athletes were: gold medal winners - Katie Lewis, double gold in the 100m and 400m senior girls hurdles; Rob McGregor (who was also Glam Valleys team captain), pole vault and a personal best; Harry Davies, 400m junior boys; Lewis Jones, 800m junior boys (continuing his clean sweep of national honours); Zoe Dakin, hammer middle girls; Stephen Guest, senior boys high jump.

Silver medal winners - Matthew Weeks, 400m senior boys; Trudy Williams, discus senior girls; Amy Tidball, javelin senior girls; Lora Roberts, 800m middle girls; Zoe Dakin, discus middle girls; Rosa Yates, 800m junior girls.

Bronze medal winners - Sam Longville, 3,000m middle boys; Ben Owen, 800m junior boys; Ffion Lewis, 3,000m senior girls; Trudy Williams, hammer senior girls; Isabel Hughes, 300m middle girls; Nicole Davenport, javelin middle girls.

Well done to the following athletes for making the finals, many of whom just missed out on medals finishing fourth in their events: Alex Simon, Megan Osborne, James Hunt, Jess Hegarty, Annabel Curle, Fiona Bray, Lucy Taylor, Nia Ward, Rachel Lewis, Emma Johnson.

On July 9, Bridgend's younger athletes competed in a Louise Arthur competition which was again held at Brecon. Under-11, under-13 and under-15 athletes from Barry and the Vale, Brecon, Bridgend, Carmarthen, Pembroke and Swansea competed in this junior competition. Bridgend's younger athletes performed superbly, achieving 32 personal best performances.

Athletes from Wales, England, Ireland and Scotland competed in the SIAB Schools International competition which was held on July 16 at Leckwith Stadium.

Three Bridgend athletes were selected to represent the Welsh Schools team - Zoe Dakin (hammer throw), Isabel Hughes (300m and 4x300m) and Lora Roberts (80m hurdles).

The competition saw four top class national teams compete against each other and the girls all gave superb performances.

Well done to Isabel, Lora, Zoe and Stephen Guest who have also been selected to represent Wales in the Celtic Games which is to be held in Antrim on August 13.

Unfortunately, Lora is unable to compete because of a clash with the AAA Combined Events competition which is to be held on August 13-14 at Norwood Stadium, Stoke; good luck to all four athletes in their respective competitions.

Congratulations to all Bridgend athletes who competed in the under-13/under-15 Welsh Athletics Championships which was held at Leckwith Stadium, Cardiff on July 23.

There were a number of great performances and personal bests on the day. Highlight of the day was Lewis Jones completing the clean sweep of under-15 Welsh

middle distance championships having already won the 1,500m title, the 800m indoor title and Welsh Schools 800m title. Not only did he win the gold in the 800m on July 23, but he also ran a personal best of 2.02.24 which was also a new championship record. This ranks Lewis 10th in the UK, what a fantastic performance.

Harry Davies also gave a fabulous performance and is also having a great season. Following on from his 400m Welsh Champs Indoor gold medal and winning the Welsh Schools 400m title, he also ran a personal best, claiming the gold in a time of 52.82, ranking Harry 12th in the UK.

Three other athletes also claimed medals on the day - they were Seren Allin with a personal best in the under-13 girls 800m and winning the silver medal; Jack Hogan had a personal best in the under-15 boys high jump, winning the bronze medal on count back because the top four athletes all cleared 1.65m. Finally, Rosa Yates won a bronze in the under-15 girls 800m.

Other great performances came from Zoe Nash and Ceri Jones, both with three personal bests on the day.

Well done to all the other Bridgend athletes who competed, many of whom made finals but just missed out on medals. They were: Ffion Llewellyn, Emma Johnson, Shauna Quirke, Nia Ward, Jo-Dianna Grabham, Bethan Johnson, Rachel Lewis, Sian Smith, Evan Williams, Dylan Parry and Rhys Roberts.

Good luck to all Bridgend athletes for the forthcoming competitions in August.

JR

Pencoed's charge is halted by Fijian Army



Pencoed's Aaron Songhurst off-loads to the supporting Paul Macfarlane.

Pictures by
JULIE HANCOCK

THE Pencoed camp can reflect on a very satisfying overall performance at the inaugural Help for Heroes tournament.

Starting with a great seven-try win over St Athan, tries came from Glen Hiscocks (2) Aaron Songhurst, Tom Cross, Paul Macfarlane, Jamie Williams, and there was a debut score from Mike Rowe.

Next up were the Nomads, with 'Pen' running out 21-7 winners.

The third game was a close affair, and with a strong second half defensive effort, Pencoed won 7-5. Gareth Prentice was the try scorer, with Tom Cross adding the all important conversion.

The following day, Pencoed continued their winning run, beating the 39th Rifles Division 15-0. Cross, Williams, and Macfarlane were the try scorers.

At the straight knockout stage, despite a committed effort throughout, Pencoed were beaten by a strong Fijian Army squad who got a couple of quick first half scores which eventually settled the outcome.

Pencoed now prepare in earnest for their pre-season warm up matches, travelling to Glyncoerrwg on Friday, August 19, for a 7pm kick-off, then hosting Pontypool United on Saturday, August 27, 2.30pm kick-off.

The team then begin their Division 3 South West campaign at Morriston on Saturday, September 3.



ABOVE: James Murphy wins possession for Pencoed.

BELOW: Pencoed debutant Mike Rowe on the attack.



Bridgend under-15s reach cricket final after classy victory

IN the semi-finals of the South Wales DC Thomas Cup, Bridgend Town Cricket Club under-15s were drawn away to Ynystawe Cricket Club.

Winning the toss proved vital for Bridgend, who decided to bat first in a 20-overs per side contest.

An opening partnership of 66 by Owen Davies and Tom Hill, stumped for 25, was followed by a second partnership of 32 with Sam Pearce.

Owen Davies was finally bowled for 40 runs, leaving Bridgend on 109-3, with Sam Pearce 28 not out.

Bowling for Ynystawe, C McFenton (1 for 18 off four overs) and T Blake returned figures of 1 for 17 off four overs.

Bridgend bowled and fielded well, to restrict Ynystawe to a score of 93 for 7, with T Blake scoring 26 runs.

Bowling for Bridgend, Troy Smith bowled 2 for 9 from two overs, and Sam Pearce 2 for 12 from four overs; Tom Hill (1-27), and Ieuan Potts (1-12) were supported by Dan Donnelly and Tom Dalton.

Bridgend won by 16 runs and now play in the final at Pontarddulais Cricket Festival on August 14 at 4.30pm.

CDD



Pencoed's Glen Hiscocks on the attack.

IT'S COOL FOR CATS!

THE CATS PROTECTION Bridgend's Adoption Centre will be holding a family open day on August 20, from 10.30am-4pm.

The theme this year is the Rugby World Cup. Staff will be dressed in cultural outfits from around the world and the public will get to meet cats looking for new homes.

They include Cinders (three years old) neutered female; Bubble (seven years old) neutered male, and Jade (17 weeks old) neutered female.

Molly Hughes, acting manager, said: "The Open Day is a great opportunity to enjoy some summertime fun while supporting the

charity which finds new homes for the many unwanted and abandoned cats that come into its care. This year has been a tough year with homing figures down, so this event could help to improve things if we receive lots of support."

Other attractions include children's entertainment, pony rides, bouncy castle, tombola, home made cakes stall, bric-a-brac, barbecue and lots more; parking is available on site.

Admission is £1 for adults and 50p for children (three and under free).

For more information about the open day and/or directions, call 01656 724396, or visit website <http://bridgend.cats.org.uk>



BUBBLE.



CINDERS.

First Minister lends support to the Bridgend Rehoming Centre

FIRST Minister Carwyn Jones has visited Dogs Trust Bridgend - to see at first hand the charity's work in caring for stray and unwanted dogs.

The Bridgend AM was given a tour of the rehoming centre, which cares for 70 dogs at any one time.

He talked to the centre's staff about the benefits of microchipping, which Dogs Trust believes should be made compulsory to help trace abandoned pets back to irresponsible owners and reduce the number of healthy dogs unnecessarily put to sleep in the UK.

The First Minister also confirmed that the Welsh Government will introduce new legislation to tackle puppy farming this autumn.

Dogs Trust CEO, Clarissa Baldwin, said: "We were delighted to welcome the First Minister.

"The staff all appreciated the time he took to meet some of the dogs and hear their stories.

"Dogs Trust is working hard to reduce the number of stray dogs in Wales by offering free and reduced cost neutering and microchipping.

"We were pleased to be able to demonstrate how a system of compulsory microchipping could help to trace dogs back to their owners, but also back to irresponsible breeders.

"Dogs Trust has contributed significantly to the drafting of the proposed dog breeding regulations and we are reassured by the First Minister's pledge to make this issue a priority."

The First Minister commented: "Dogs Trust has been extremely supportive of the action we have taken in recent years to improve



Carwyn Jones pictured at the Rehoming Centre.

the standard of animal welfare in Wales.

"I am determined to take action to tackle any bad practice in the dog breeding industry.

"We will be bringing forward new legislation to ensure that irresponsible breeding in so called "puppy farms" is brought to an end.

"We aim to bring forward revised legislation for further consultation by the National Assembly this autumn," he confirmed.



"Give us a kiss First Minister!"

FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR YOUNG FARMERS!

THE annual general meeting of Maendy Young Farmers Club will take place on August 16, at 7.30pm in Cowbridge rugby club.

Aside from the formalities of the evening, we hope that members, officers and club supporters will be able to attend, to wrap up a fine year of achievements and fun.

Parents, supporters, current and future members, are encouraged to come along and contribute ideas to keep our club strong and enjoyable for years to come.

As another year draws to a close, and a new one is dawning, the club has a busy year ahead of it, as always.

Highlights of 2010/11 include achieving first place in the entertainment competition; second place on Rally Day; third place for winter com-

petitions. The club has been very fortunate this year to have a strong group of members of various ages, who have shown enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to club activities, meetings and competitions alike.

For many members, it was their first time to compete - in doing so, they did themselves and their club proud.

If you are aged between 10 and 26 and are interested in becoming a part of a great organisation with lots of opportunities, please visit www.maendy.bctc.co.uk for further information. Remember, you don't have to be a farmer to be in Young Farmers!

A big thank you to everybody who made 2010/11 as successful as it was. We look forward to your continued support for the next 12 months.

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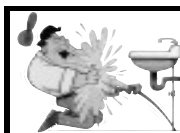
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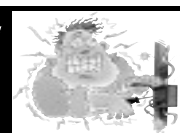
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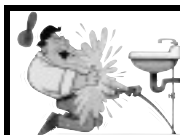
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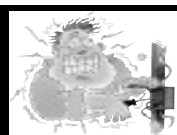
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Public Notices

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To whom it may concern:

I, Peter Lee do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority at Vale of Glamorgan Council for the grant of our Premises Licence at Unit 1, Esplanade Buildings, Friars Road, Barry Island, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 5TJ known as Coffee Cove and Wine Bar Limited.

The application is to:

Open for business hours of: Sunday Thursday 09.00-23.00, Friday & Saturday 09.00-00.00.

To sell alcohol during the hours: Sunday - Thursday 09.00-23.00, Friday & Saturday 09.00-00.00.

Late night refreshment: Friday & Saturday 23.00-23.59.

Entertainment (Late night refreshment): Friday & Saturday 23.00-23.59.

Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to Senior Licensing Officer, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Licensing Authority's address during normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

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Family Notices

WALKER Mark

Margaret, Malcolm, Michelle and Alun wish to express their heartfelt thanks to all who sent cards of condolence, flowers, donations to Maggies, and who supported us all before, at, and indeed since, the funeral of Mark.

Thanks are also due to the staff of the Vale of Glamorgan Inn and to Mark of the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge. Sincere thanks to Canon Derek and to John James and his staff.

You are, all of you, helping us to come to terms with the sudden and tragic loss of Mark.

MILES Elizabeth Ellen 1920-2011

Peacefully in the Princess of Wales Hospital on August 4, Elizabeth, of Llantwit Major, widow of the late Donald, much loved mother of Ann, John, Jane and the late Brian and Colin, dear mother in law of Les, Malcolm and Aileen, grandmother of Mark, Graham, Sarah, Warren, Anna, Gareth and Wayne and their partners, great grandmother of Christopher, Sophie, Holly, Kyle, Kayleigh, Davin, Emlyn, Iestyn, Jacob and Thomas, beloved sister of Nancy. Sadly missed by all her family and friends. Resting at WA Brown & Son, Pembroke House, College Street, Llantwit Major, where flowers or donations to the Children's Heart Unit for Wales may be sent, until the funeral on Monday August 15 at the Bethel Baptist Church at 11am followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery.

KNOTT Colin David

Peacefully after a short illness on August 4 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Colin of Boverton, Llantwit Major. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Thursday August 18, service 2.30pm at St Athan Church followed by private cremation. No flowers by request.

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RECENTLY, Val Williams led what will probably be the last of the summer evening walks, starting at the delightful Nash Point, crossing Marcross Brook as it meandered its way down the valley, and through Cwm Marcross.

They passed the entrance to Marcross Farm before crossing a stile and joining part of Valeways Millennium Trail, around Parc Farm and into woodland near St Donats Castle.

Dating back to the late 12th century the castle, built by the de Hawey family, passed through marriage into the local Stradling family in 1298.

After the Civil War, it fell into ruin and during the 1900s was slowly restored. In 1925, the American magnate William Randolph Hearst bought the castle and carried out several renovations, including installing electricity, not only to the castle, but to the surrounding homes in the area.

Nowadays, it is home to Atlantic College where students from all over the world come together to study.

Visiting St Donats church, it was interesting to note that part of the building dates back to 1100 and was originally called Llanwrydd and dedicated to St Gwerydd, but later changed its name as St Donat became the patron saint of sailors.

A pleasant pathway led them down through the wood to emerge onto the coastal path back to Nash Point light-house built after the passenger steamer *Frolic* ran aground on the Nash sandbank with the loss of many lives.

Originally, there were two light-houses, but now only one remains, standing at 37 metres high. As it is now un-manned, the outbuildings have been converted into holiday accommodation.

Also recently, Joy and Sheila completed a coastal marathon, after taking the Vale train down to Bridgend in drizzle rain.

Walking through the town, the rain stopped and they followed the beautifully clean River Ogmore down through Newbridge Fields and crossing the old dipping bridge entered fields near Merthyr Mawr House.

Emerging on the lane to Whitney Farm, they crossed open meadows by Coed Cwintin and followed the lane at Candleson Farm to enter Merthyr Mawr dunes.

The morning was humid rather than warm, as they followed sandy pathways towards Newton, before turning south to join the lovely firm solid sandy beach at Traeth yr Afon, where they took a break.

Turning inland at the Ogmore Estuary, they met a huge party of horses and riders who had churned up the sand and leaving Merthyr Mawr by road they crossed the suspension bridge to Ogmore Moor.

Climbing uphill through tall ferns, they followed grassy paths at Ogmore Down, to emerge at St Brides Major and passing Pitcot Pool, crossed meadows to Pant y Slade and Dunraven Bay.

Passing through Dunraven walled garden, they descended the narrow path to cross the rocks onto the beach where they enjoyed a break below Cwm Mawr.

The lovely sandy beaches of Traeth Bach, Traeth Mawr and Nash followed before the climb up to Nash Point and a well-earned break.

Then they journeyed along the coastal path through St Donats and Tresilian to Llantwit Major beach for their last break at Castle Ditches.

Glad of a slight cooling breeze, they continued on to Summerhouse Point then Limpert Bay and circum-navigated Aberthaw Power Station to Pleasant Harbour.

By now, feet were feeling tired as they hauled themselves up the cliff path to Fontygary Caravan Park, following the cliff top and fields back to their triumphant finish at Rhose railway Station and the short car journey back to Barry.

On August 13, you are invited to an 11-mile linear walk from Pencelli back to Storey Arms, leaving Cogan by car at 8.45am to catch the 9.54am bus at Storey Arms to Brecon and wait for the 10.56am connection to Pencelli.

For more information, contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.

Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

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Mr Daniel Bevan – 20
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Mr Jonathan Rosser – 5
Bryn Gorsedd,
Litchard, Bridgend –
proposed ground floor
extension to rear.

A Bright Start Nursery
Ltd – Principality
House, Main Avenue,
Litchard Industrial
Estate, Bridgend – pro-
posed change of use to
creche with enclosed
external play area.

Mr and Mrs R Weston –
69 St Illtyds Road,
Bridgend – ground floor
shower room extension.

CBL – Nolton Court, 4
Merthyr Mawr Road,
Bridgend – refurb (with
partial demolition) and
new extension – re-sub
of P/11/48/FUL.

CBL – Nolton Court, 4
Merthyr Mawr Road,
Bridgend – refurb (with
partial demolition) and
new extension – re-sub
of P/11/49/LIS.

Mr Neil Taylor – 65
Wyndham Crescent,
Bridgend – new single
storey front porch and
single storey rear and
loft conversion.

Mika Building Services
– land rear of Blundell
Avenue, Porthcawl –
amendment to P/10/2-3

– redevelopment of
brownfield site and build
two houses.

Mrs V Jones – 111
Ewenny Road,
Bridgend – rear single
storey dining room
extension.

Mr Vernon Haines – 15
Tymeinwr Avenue,
Blaengarw, Bridgend –
erect block garden shed
incorporating a block
and beam roof to serve
as a decking area.

Mr Kevin Ashford – 43
Oak Tree Court,
Brackla, Bridgend –
double storey side exten-
sion for kitchen, play-
room, bedroom and
shower room.

McArthurGlen Group –
adj unit 42-43
Bridgend Designer
Outlet, The Derwen,
Bridgend – to construct
and position a wooden
garden home over an
existing landscaped area.

Valleys to Coast
Housing – land adj
Heol Cae Dafad,
Maesteg – one 4+1 sup-
ported housing scheme
and one and two-bed
three-person wheelchair
accessible bungalow and
associated works.

BARRY ATHLETIC CRICKET ROUND-UP

Stags grind out crucial victories

NATHAN BAKER'S Barry Athletic First XI travelled to mid-table Lisvane CC, in what was anticipated as a potential 'banana-skin' as they bid to win promotion to Division Two.

After the midweek showers, Baker had no hesitation in electing to bowl first.

The home side got off to a tricky start, with runs hard to come by. Bowlers Peter Hellyar and Steve Jones, bowled consistent lines to keep the batsmen at bay and hand the Stags the good start they needed.

However, with wickets not coming cheaply, Barry were made to work really hard and were in serious danger of not claiming all five bowling points.

As the game wore on, the pitch became easier to bat on and Lisvane were beginning to score more easily; Eswar Krishnamurthy (46) and Greg Edwards (31) scored crucial runs for the home side in what was a hard-fought innings between the two sides.

Wickets from Steve Jones (2-22), John Gee (3-58) and Billy Usswald (3-38) all proved invaluable, but

with chances going begging in the field, Lisvane held on to finish on 182-9 from their 50 overs.

After the tea session, the Stags didn't start well in their run chase. Despite needing an average score in the shape of just 183, the visitors seemed to struggle slightly.

Lee Morgan, Nathan Baker and Ian Gadd all played themselves in and found no luck as they all departed after making starts. The Stags were in danger of losing their first match in seven, had it not been for the fine batting displays of Gavin White (41) and Billy Usswald (45 n/o).

Both batsmen played admirably and kept Barry in with a shout.

Jack Mitchell proved to be the star bowler for the home side, claiming figures of 4-45 from 15 overs.

The Stags looked down and out, with the score on 107-7, but with White and Usswald's contributions, Barry recovered to win by one wicket and move one step towards promotion.

INJURED BUCKLAND FIRES STAGS HOME

SIMON PHILLIPS made it 10 wins in 11

matches as Second XI captain, as Barry ground out a three-wicket win over Lisvane CC.

With the ground a little bit damp, Phillips chose to bowl first after winning the toss. The Stags were in control with bowlers, Maqsood Anwar and Dafydd Frost using the conditions to their advantage and bowling tight lines.

Both bowlers would have every right to be pleased with their displays as the visitors found it hard to get going. It took a while for the first wicket to fall with young prospect, Jake Griffith, getting in on the act. The bowling, from a Barry point of view, was impressive.

However, the fielding was below par and players like Ashley Baker will have to improve in the field if they want to keep their place in the team.

Luckily, the visitors never got going and with a fine piece of death bowling from Anwar, after taking four wickets in just nine balls, Lisvane were bowled out for 202 in 47.4 overs.

After the tea session, the Stags were made to chase 203 runs the hard way. Batsmen Steven Jones, Ashley Baker, Jophin Reji, Martin Baker, Henry Dawson

and Simon Phillips all came and went without troubling the scorers too much.

The Stags were languishing at just 61-6 and were staring down the barrel of defeat, had it not been for the major contribution of Andrew Buckland.

Fighting through a serious hamstringing injury, Buckland made batting look easy as he made light work of the Lisvane bowling attack. Boundaries became a regular thing and with the assistance of Jake Griffith (20) and Peter Davies (26 n/o), Barry made partnerships of 68 and 75 respectively, to count a fantastic comeback and claim another victory, by three wickets.

Buckland's man-of-the-match display proved to be vital in the run chase and his magnificent knock of 94 not out was greeted with a standing ovation by the home supporters.

AB

Dinas shape up for season

DINAS POWYS Football Club have had a busy pre-season.

Management team Geza Hajgato and Phil Clay have recruited a number of new players to add to a nucleus of players who have been with the club for a number of seasons, and are pleased with the attitude and ability now at the club.

In their friendly on Monday, Dinas started a little slowly with Grange Quins having the better of the first twenty minutes forcing a number of corners.

Once the home side had scored through Alex North there was only going to be one winner, and before half-time North had scored his second, with Ricki Morgan adding the third.

The second-half saw manager Geza Hajgato using his substitutes with neither side creating any clear scoring chances.

Their season starts in earnest this Saturday with a Welsh Cup qualifying game at home to Blaenrhondda followed closely by a Welsh League game at Caerleon on Wednesday, August 17.

For further news and fixtures see the club's website: www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk

MW

Cadoxton bowlers win two on the trot - and boost survival chances

CADOXTON were successful with their second consecutive win, when hosting Cymmer in the CML3, and brightened their prospects of avoiding relegation.

A winning result always looked likely from early in the game when two of the rinks made tremendous starts, both rinks scoring without much restraint end after end.

Ashley Brown took the top honours with his rink when scoring 21 shots, after 12 ends with just a 2 on the fifth end breaking the winning sequence.

Over the next seven ends the opposition started to improve and took seven shots against two, but a 3 and 4 on the final ends regained the big advantage.

Kelvin Chedzoy was the other skip who took his rink into an 11-0 advantage, before conceding seven shots during the next four ends.

However, the superiority was regained by the 17th with a 23-11 lead.

Five shots by the opposition, in three ends were cancelled out with a 5 on the penultimate end.

Howard Craven had a much tighter time on his rink, although holding control for most of the game.

The visitors kept peg-

ging away to keep in contention, up until the 13th end, when the score was 12-11.

At this stage, full control was taken with only two further losing ends, to complete the third victory.

Don Kuhnell skipped the final rink and found some problems in the early stages, with the visitors relying on heavy bowls into the head, and obtaining luck with the results.

Two 3s to open followed by two singles left the home side 8-0 down, and they were not playing badly.

A single got them on the scoreboard on the fifth end and Don decided to play covering bowls to overcome the constant moving of the jack.

This safety first attitude proved fruitful and slowly but surely, the deficit was reduced.

Eventually on the 18th end the scores were level, and two shots each kept the score level going into the final end.

Don had the opportunity of making a 5 which would have saved them from doing the washing up, but made the prudent decision to take the two shots held, and not play the last bowl, to complete maximum points for the game.

T Bishop, L Davies, G Brown, A Brown 30-9; J Crout, I Robertson, D Brook, H Craven 19-15; G Solomon, L Cundliffe, J Davies, D Kuhnell 19-17;

Ellis, G Davies, W Vaughan, K Chedzoy 28-16; Final score: 96-57.

Cadoxton A v Rummy Buccaneers - ML5

CADOXTON A have also had some bad results recently and were very pleased to come back, from this away fixture against Rummy Buccaneers, with a win.

The home team were four players short, so they lost shots on each of their rinks.

Alan Carpenter's rink produced the best result, they started well and

reached 13-4.

However, during the next seven ends they only managed a single, while the opposition drew level.

The tables were turned again over the final six ends by scoring six with just two against.

A further four shots were gained with the deduction, to give an eight shot advantage.

Graham Garland's four trailed throughout the game, but a six on the last end produced a tie after another six was deducted.

Roy Harding was also behind from the start, on his rink, but they received seven shots 'bonus' to reduce their deficit to 10 shots.

The final rink skipped

by John Stewart followed a similar pattern - they needed to win by two shots to tie the aggregate, and after scoring two 2s on the final ends, trailed by two shots.

However, shot deductions were made to win the rink but, more importantly, the aggregate by the narrowest margin.

A Turner, D Tuck, J Sugden, R Harding 11-21; B Knight, S Clements, M Curtis, G Garland 18-18;

J Stacey, R Doble, R Cole, A Carpenter 20-12; G Powell, L Adams, S Clarke, J Stewart 15-12;

Final score: 64-63.

DK

Windsor Open is a feast of top tennis!

PENARTH Windsor's Open Tournament has ended with a feast of tennis.

The finals day saw the end of a tournament lasting several months in which some 80 keenly fought matches have been played out.

Skipper of the men's first team, Dan Hughes, took the men's singles title with a 6-2 6-3 win over the seasoned Jason Richards. Honours for the ladies went to Bethan Pilcher, 6-4 and 6-2, in a competitive match with Frankie Hartland.

In the men's doubles, Dan Hughes and Dan Ellis saw off first team colleagues Dan James and Tim Dawes after a tight 7-5 first set, and then cruised to a 6-0 win in the second.

Ladies winners were Victoria Silva and Sarah Halpin who took the match after their opponents were forced to withdraw due to an injury.

The mixed doubles final saw the Hughes siblings Dan and Lowri take the crown after beating another family duo of Jason and Annabel Richards.

Chairman Peter Bellingham said: "It was an enjoyable day, and one of the most important of the season. The Open draws in a large proportion of our playing membership and is an integral part of the season with over 80 matches taking place over the tournament."

"I am delighted to congratulate all the winners, and indeed everyone who participated."

Meanwhile, the ladies fourth team has finished their season in style with two wins, leaving

them in promotion position.

After twice having to reschedule their match at Pentrych because of torrential rain, it was third time lucky when they arrived on a fine evening and were able to complete the fixture.

The team of Sandra Brewster, Anne Whitfield, Jo Ellis, Jill Halpin, Annabel Richards and Bev House came away with a 4-2 win.

The following Wednesday, the last match of the season was played at Rhiwbina and the team of Jo Ellis, Becky King, Jill Halpin, Chris Dunn, Annabel Richards and Bev House finished in style with a 6-0 win, sealing promotion to Division 6.

Captain Bev House paid tribute to her squad of Sandra Brewster, Chris Dunn, Jo Ellis, Fay Glinister, Jill Halpin, Clare Jones, Sara Jones, Becky King, Teca Phillips, Elaine Newton, Annabel Richards, Nicola Ritchie, Julie Savill and Anne Whitfield.

"Everyone has played their part in a fantastic season and we are looking forward to the challenges of Division 6 next year," said House.

In particular the performance of one of the youngest, Annabel Richards, had been impressive.

"It is her first season in ladies' league and she has been our star player winning 85 per cent of her rubbers."

"She may have won more had she been able to play from the start, but unfortunately she broke her thumb skiing so was not available for the first three matches."

NG

Wanderers ease through against St Fagans in run-fest!

HAYES Point saw a run-fest on Saturday, as third place Barry Wanderers beat St Fagans by 54 runs in a game which saw an aggregate total of 600 runs scored.

It was an entertaining affair from the off with the Wanderers' opening pair of Lanagan and Hassett scoring freely and with considerable style.

Although Hassett (18) and Ridgwell (0) departed early, the run rate was never really affected, Aled Hughes making batting look easy with some aggressive yet controlled strokes.

Lanagan went about his business trouble-free, to bring up his fifth half-century of the season, until he eventually was caught at square-leg for 53. All the fall of Lanagan meant was that last week's centurion, Kunal Mhadgut, arrived at the crease.

Hughes found a willing partner in Mhadgut and together they both played some sumptuous shots. Hughes brought up his first ton of the season with a six over fine leg and he went on to score 139, the highest score in the firsts in 2011.

Mhadgut contributed well, with an unbeaten 41 and he was joined at the end by Davies who scored 5 not out. The Wanderers' total was 327-4, the second highest score in the club's 41-year history.

Although never really in the hunt,

St Fagans made a good fist of their reply. Despite riding his luck early on, Howe battled for the whole of his side's 45 overs to score an unbeaten 134.

He found a couple of willing partners in Swell (30) and Melrose (37) but most of the runs flowed because of the attacking fields set by the home skipper Keir in a bid to secure as many bowling points as possible.

Unfortunately, the home bowling attack never really fired. The stand-out performer with the ball was Krishna Nandan who, after a nervous start, bowled accurately with good pace and helped himself to three wickets for 41 runs.

The fielding from the Seaside was genuinely below par but there was one sharp run-out from Bowles, as well as a truly spectacular effort from Davies who collected and released the ball one handed, at pace and off balance, to destroy the stumps with the batsman well out of his ground.

Luke Denning and Tom Ridgwell both claimed a wicket each, to leave St Fagans adrift on 273-7 after their 45 overs.

It was a comfortable win that, although not as comprehensive as it could have been, was never really in doubt.

The BWCC Sofa Sofa man of the match was Aled Hughes.

AF

Barrivale Bridge Club news

HERE are the latest results from Barrivale:

Tuesday, August 2: First, Noelle Bond and Jane Brook, 72.92 per cent; second, Celia Thomas and Mick Green, 55.56 per cent; third, Dave Thomas and Lyn Matthews, 52.78 per cent.

On the same day, the annual competition for the Claret Jug and Doughty Bowl was held.

The winners of the Claret Jug and its cash prize of £20, presented by the East Wales Bridge Association, were the scratch winners Noelle Bond and Jane Brook.

The Doughty Bowl, presented by Joyce and Morfa Doughty, founder members of the Barrivale club, was won by Helen Jordan and Denis Mottram, handicap winners.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale; for more information ring 01446 733425.

MB

With the Rugby World Cup looming on the horizon, how are Wales positioned to compete in the global tournament next month? See Don John's verdict on how the team are preparing on the back page of this week's GEM.

PARK LIONS YOUNGSTERS COLLECT THEIR AWARDS

Park Lions recently held their presentation day at Cadoxton Conservative Club.

As well as trophies for all players, special trophies were awarded to selected players who had had an excellent season.

The photos show just a few players with their well-deserved trophies.

The players and their families also enjoyed the day by taking part in Soak the Coach, football skittles and crazy hair spraying among other events.

The club thanks The Cherry Orchard, Sir Samuel Romilly, Shahi Noor Tandoori, Guiliano's Restaurant, The Ship, The Cwm Ciddy, Oriental Diner, Bluebell Florist and the Millwood Inn for their fantastic raffle prizes.

The club would also like to extend a thank you to Martyn and Glynne, for all their help in making the day so successful.

Park Lions are currently looking for players in school years 2-9 to join their existing teams.

For more information, contact Kim on 01446 738486.

KI



Alexander, under-8s.



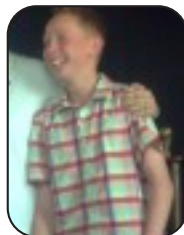
Evan, under-8s.



Joshua, under-9s.



Ben, under-8s.



Gabriel, under-13s.



Michael, under-12s.



Ben, under-9s.



Mason, under-8s.



Soak the Coach!

ON AND
OFF THE
TURF
with
BRIAN LEE

ABERKENFIG'S
Delyth Thomas, who was featured in last week's GEM, was in cracking form at last Saturday's Arabian Horse Race meeting at Hereford, where she saddled three winners - and all three were ridden by top jockey Simon Walker.

The hat-trick was initiated when her Jigg Along, who was racing in public for the first time, and who carried top weight of 11st 4lbs, won the one mile and six furlong part-bred race quite comfortably.

Next her 15-year-old Pavot Al Kyle took the seven furlongs race sponsored by Connally Red Mills in good style, and her prolific Noble Athlete, a former winner of the Arab Horse Of The Year Award, made it a day to remember when landing his third race on the bounce.

Delyth has saddled seven winners this season and is second in the table of leading owners and trainers; she is now looking forward to the next meeting at Nottingham in a fortnight's time.

Del Jigg(s) Along to a hat-trick at Hereford!

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SMALL

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THE VALE SECONDS STAY ON COURSE FOR PROMOTION

VALE travelled to the university playing fields in Cardiff hoping to continue their winning ways and sustain their promotion challenge.

Gymkharna won the toss and elected to bat first, making steady progress against Vale's opening attack of Darren Upham and Jack Davies, reaching 34 before losing their first wicket.

This fell as M Ali tried to pull a short ball from Davies and holed out to Archie Yates at square leg for 23.

In the next over, Sean Boga Lake held an excellent juggling catch at mid wicket off Upham to remove the other Gymkharna opener.

Chris Pike was introduced as first change to replace Davies, and had immediate success as he hit the timber to secure his first success of the day to leave Gymkharna 61-3.

Gymkharna then put together a recovery as Maskin and Franklyn

combined in an 81-run fourth wicket partnership to take the score to 142 in the 30th over. However, this over proved to be a turning point in the game.

With Gymkharna looking set to post a total in excess of 200, a combination of Pike and skipper Mark Francis ensured two wickets fell.

Firstly, Maskin hit a straight drive which was well caught on the boundary by Francis at long off, falling for 64, and the very next ball, Franklyn attempted to hit a straight drive over the ropes but, running backwards, Francis took a magnificent catch over his shoulder to remove him for 21. Pike failed to secure the hat trick but this over had put Vale back in some control.

There was now a family combination bowling with Pike junior, Ollie Pike, in the attack and following the double strike in the previous over, he followed up his dad's good work by securing an lbw decision.

Gymkharna's tail fell

away quickly as Pike senior, in his last over of a very good 11-over spell, again hit the timber to finish with figures of 4-36.

Francis returned to his opening bowlers and was rewarded when Davies took two wickets in his first over, as Sean Boga Lake held his second catch at point, and Francis held his third catch of the match, holding a straight drive at mid off.

Upham ended the innings by bowling the last man and Gymkharna finished 166 all out in the 38th over.

The target looked well within Vale's capability given their recent batting form, but Vale suffered an early setback as Matthew Thomas was back in the pavilion after only five balls, getting caught at gully.

Francis joined in-form Gareth Andrews and both batted with caution after the early loss, taking the score to 14-1 after 7 overs.

Francis then hit five boundaries in the next three overs to get the score moving. Francis and Andrews, not for the first time this season, started to build a substantial partnership to ease Vale's nerves.

This turned into a century partnership of 117 and was broken when Andrews' accomplished innings of 48 off 73 balls was ended when he tried to drive, and gave a catch to a deepish mid-on off the bowling of Franklyn.

Francis had already passed his half century but soon followed Andrews back to the pavilion.

The skipper edged the

same bowler to the 'keeper trying to drive through extra cover and fell for 59 off 85 balls, which was his sixth half century of the summer.

Vale's wobbles were eased as Neil Raikes and Pike senior came together and with some good aggression, put on a partnership of 40 to take Vale in sight of victory.

Pike lost his wicket just before victory was achieved, hitting a catch to mid off, but Raikes finished 24 not out, hitting the winning boundary to secure another maximum point win for Vale.

The skipper said: "While we took some great catches today, we were at times sluggish in the field which we will need to improve on in the closing weeks. That said, we bowled pretty well and once again the top order looks a quality outfit capable of chasing down decent targets."

Cardiff Gymkharna 166 all out (36.1 overs); Vale 168-4 (34.4 overs). Vale won by six wickets. MF

Ross's 74 helps second team back to victory

COWBRIDGE Second XI has slipped to third in the league, following a spate of disappointing results, and were therefore keen to stop this slide against last Drefach Saturday.

With a side filled with youth and experience, in particular Guy Parker who was welcomed back having returned for the summer from Bahrain, Drefach won the toss and decided to field first.

There was a sense of déjà vu when the Cowbridge innings started badly with an early wicket going down, and then when Tim Moss was unluckily caught in the outfield.

Cowbridge were 22 for 2 off 8 overs and a decent partnership was needed to provide some stability.

This was indeed what happened with a partnership of over 100 between Chris Ross and Jonty Webb. Both batted excellently, consolidating to begin with and then starting to put away the bad deliveries and push the score along.

With a pitch that was slightly two-paced, scoring was difficult, but both batsmen were able to find the occasional boundary, and with some good running between

the wicket, the partnership was worth 88 in 34 overs when Jonty Webb was finally out for 41.

The scoring continued with some lusty blows from Guy Parker, but after his departure there was a mini collapse. However, Chris Ross held firm at the other end and batting superbly held the innings together throughout.

At the beginning with the skipper, and then opening his shoulders as the innings progressed, he was finally out for a terrific 74 that allowed Cowbridge to reach 175 off their 50 overs.

This was a competitive total but Cowbridge knew they would have to bowl and field well if they were to chalk up another victory and secure full points.

Things started extremely well for the home side, with the father and son partnership of Sean and Nick Rowland combining to have the Drefach opener caught behind with score only 2. Sean then struck again, aided by a terrific catch by Rian Thomas, to leave the visitors on 32 for 2 off 10 overs.

At this point Mathew Keating was introduced into the attack, and this was to start a quite superb performance by the talented youngster.

Mathew bowled superbly, tying the

Drefach batsmen in knots. They simply were unable to combat the flight and spin of his bowling and wickets began to tumble. Although the Drefach captain offered some resistance, they continued to lose wickets.

Cowbridge's fielding was of a higher standard than in previous weeks, and resulted in some good catches in the deep to assist the bowlers as they whittled away at the batsmen.

In the end, Andy Brace took the final wicket with Drefach finishing on 113, all out in 37 overs.

However, the star of the show was Mathew Keating. He finished with figures of 6 for 45 in 14 overs, a terrific performance which certainly augurs well for the future.

This was an excellent game with telling contributions from individuals with bat and ball, but also a great team performance. The game was played in a fine spirit and it was very pleasing to see Cowbridge get back to their winning ways. Hopefully, this will be maintained as the season rushes to its conclusion.

JW

Tough task for the Llantwit A men's bowlers

LLANTWIT A bowls team were at home to Roath Park for the sixth division match last Saturday - and it proved to be the hardest game of the season.

Eric Hacker's rink of P Brown, K Morgan and P Twomey won by 7 shots. Although every shot was strongly contested, they kept the pressure up and won by 7 shots.

Ritchie Gray's rink of W Evans, I Williamson and M Jones, the score was two all after two ends, they never let Roath in and on the last end the score was 21-20.

The Roath skip bowled his first bowl, moved the jack to be holding four shots; Ritchie bowled his first bowl and with perfect weight, moved the jack to be holding one shot.

The Roath skip missed the head completely, and Ritchie

wisely decided not to bowl his last bowl! The final result was 22-20.

N Parry's rink of K Alexander, P Aston and K Williams were being overwhelmed by Roath, and after the 14th end were trailing by 14 shots. But after a supreme effort, they picked up 12 shots on the next six ends to lose by five shots, but by their efforts they clinched the game for Llantwit.

Arthur Harvey's rink of D Lancaster, C Williams and R Harding started well, and after four ends were six up never losing the lead, and they won 20-19.

Total score: 81-76. Rink scores: E Hacker 20-13; R Gray 22-20; N Parry 19-24; A Harvey 20.

This was the hardest game of the season and against the second from the top of the league, the whole team played their hearts out for a well deserved five shot win.

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175/60R14 Bridgestone B250	£70.23	£138	£250	175/60R14 Avon ZVS	£53.34	£99	£199
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165/60R15 Bridgestone B250	£85.44	£160	£310	165/60R15 Avon ZVS	£63.34	£115	£220
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175/60R15 Budget	£48.13	£90	£179

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165/60R15 Bridgestone B250	£83.24	£160	£310	165/60R15 Avon ZVS	£69.34	£130	£250
165/60R15 Bridgestone B250	£70.14	£139	£250	165/60R15 Avon ZVS	£58.44	£110	£210
205/55R16 Bridgestone B250	£81.41	£158	£290	205/55R16 Avon ZVS	£71.11	£135	£260

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155/60R15 Budget	£42.04	£79	£155
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165/60R15 Budget	£50.47	£95	£188
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205/55R16 Bridgestone B250	£83.41	£165	£330	205/55R16 Avon ZVS	£74.38	£140	£270
225/45R17 Bridgestone B250	£128.49	£230	£440	225/45R17 Avon ZVS	£99.14	£198	£370
225/45R17 Avon ZVS	£146.31	£285	£550	225/45R17 Avon ZVS	£116.13	£225	£448

FROM **£54.24**

205/55R16 Budget	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
205/55R16 Budget	£54.24	£99	£185
225/45R17 Budget	£55.37	£101	£199
225/45R17 Budget	£59.65	£110	£218
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GEM sport

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

Gritty display, but Wales still have much to work on in second clash

WARM-UP matches with the 'old enemy', England, have all too often been a chilling experience for Wales in their final preparations for a Rugby World Cup.

In 2003, Steve Hansen's side were slammed 43-9 by the eventual World Cup winners in Cardiff, while even worse humiliation followed in 2007, with a morale-crushing 62-5 record defeat for the hapless Gareth Jenkins' mix'n'match team at Twickenham. (Ironically, just a few months earlier, a full strength Wales had avoided a Six Nations whitewash by overcoming England 27-18 in Cardiff).

So the portents were not good for Warren Gatland's men to meet English counterpart Martin Johnson's rugged challenge at fortress Twickenham on Saturday, particularly in the absence of the British Lions' front row – Adam Jones, Gethin Jenkins and skipper Matthew Rees.

The task seemed even greater for Wales when veteran midfield general Stephen Jones withdrew with an injury just before the kick-off and thus missed out on his 101st record-breaking appearance.

His young Scarlets clubmate, Rhys

Priestland, was switched to outside half, allowing Morgan Stoddart to come back in at full back, and both men seized their unexpected opportunity with aplomb (until Stoddart's World Cup dream was cruelly ended by a dreadful leg injury early in the second half).

With the exception of a very well-worked try by wing George North, converted by Priestland, the first half was increasingly dominated by English power play which targeted a perceived frailty in the Welsh front row.

The home team drew first blood after just five minutes with a penalty by Jonny Wilkinson, who also converted a walk-over try by James Haskell, following a powerful (if questionable) scrum near the Welsh line, and then scrambled over a drop goal to make the half time score 13-7.

When Samoan-born centre Manu Tuilagi surged effortlessly through the defence for a try under the posts, converted by the metro-nomic Wilkinson to make the score 20-7, with 35 minutes of the second half remaining, the match seemed as good as over.

Jubilant strains of 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot' rang out from the 80,000-strong crowd, who presumably now expected to see a repeat of the 2003 and 2007 score-lines.

If so, they were to be disappointed, for

against all the odds – and despite the pummelling up front, the Welsh team staged a remarkable comeback – and this time it was England who were thrown back in desperate defence as the tempo rose in the later stages.

In fact, while England could only add three points to their total, through another snap drop goal by that man Wilkinson – the resurgent Welsh attack went into overdrive, inspiringly led by their young skipper, Sam Warburton, who had a try in the corner disallowed, and former captain, Ryan Jones (who came off the replacements bench to take over at No 8 from the highly-promising but raw Toby Faletau).

Amazingly, this spirited fight-back produced two tries – one by Shane Williams (who else?) and another in the dying minutes by North, which Priestland converted.

With 80 minutes up on the clock, a clearly-flagging England team were only too relieved to kick the ball away into touch, and cling on to their narrow 23-19 victory as the final whistle blew.

On Saturday, hostilities will be resumed in Cardiff and the Welsh camp can now approach this with quiet confidence, though surely aware that despite the many positives that can be taken from a gritty, much-improved performance, there are familiar failings and shortcomings that still need to

be put right, if the Twickenham result is to be reversed.

How Gatland and his assistant coaches address these before the more important challenge of RWC 2011 looms even larger on the horizon, is the question Welsh fans will be pondering as the two teams line up again at 2.30pm on Saturday.

They will be looking for clues today when Gatland is due to announce his starting team for the return clash at the Millennium Stadium.

Would he largely stay with the team that performed so well in defeat at Twickenham, or use it as another precious opportunity to test individuals and combinations, before he has to think about cutting the squad to 30, in readiness for the World Cup campaign?

While he hinted at the weekend that there would be no sweeping changes, the creaking scrum will surely have to be addressed and other chinks in the armour plugged, with time fast running out for take-off to New Zealand.

There is also the nagging question of if and where the enigmatic Gavin Henson fits into the equation, with continuing concerns over a perceived lack of creativity in Welsh play.

Things may become a little clearer when Gatland reveals Saturday's line-up later today.

Hillman appointed as Athletic captain

BRIDGEND Athletic RFC have appointed flanker Matthew Hillman as First XV captain for season 2011-2012.

Matthew has been a First XV regular since coming through the full mini and junior ranks and youth team, and having half a season with Maesteg following youth team rugby with

the Ath.

Last March he was awarded his Glamorgan County Cap after 14 appearances for the county.

He is an all-action player, very sound in defence and with an eye for attacking options in the true Athletic tradition, and captained the team on a few occasions last season.

He has an excellent rugby pedigree, being the son of the late Colin Hillman, who had a very successful playing career with both South Wales Police and Bridgend, as well as playing for and coaching the Wales seven-a-side team.

Matthew succeeds fellow back row forward and lock Sean Williams, who led the team to third place last season in Division 1 West of the Swalec league.

Matthew will be hoping for similar success in this coming campaign, and with former captains Stuart Morris, Simon Mustoe and Rod Jones also still among the First XV squad, there are plenty of natural, experienced leaders to guide the many youngsters in the senior set up.

The Athletic retain the same senior coaching

and management set up this season with director of rugby Paul Yardley, who will also oversee youth training, backs coach John Apsee and forwards coach David Williams.

Paul Hearne is the team manager and First XV fixture secretary.

Any playing issues or fixtures can be discussed with Paul on 07970 348 065.

The club are always looking for new recruits at both First and Second XV level, and Paul is the first point of contact.

The club have pre-season friendlies both away at North Petherton, Bridgewater and Ynysybwl on August 20 and 27, prior to their first Division 1 West fixture at home to Bonymaen on September 3.

With Llanharan and Tondy joining Division 1 West this season, along with existing Tata Steel (Port Talbot), supporters can look forward to three keenly contested local derbies.

The Athletic are away in the first half of the campaign to all three sides – Tata Steel (September 10), Llanharan (October 15) and Tondy (November 12).

AB

Bridgend athlete selected for Paralympics 2012 as hopefuls dream of gold

WITH just over a year to go to the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games, the British Paralympic Association (BPA) has announced the selection of Bridgend athlete, Stephen Thomas.

He joins four other team mates as the first named members of the British team to achieve selection, making them the first athletes to be officially selected for either Paralympics GB or Team GB.

The five athletes who will compete in the British team in sailing are: John Robertson, Hannah Stodel and Stephen Thomas – Sonar (three-person keelboat event); Alexandra

Rickham and Niki Birrell – SKUD 18 (two-person keelboat event).

Stephen Park, Olympic manager at the Royal Yachting

Association, said: "Over the past three years we've been trying hard to move our sailors forward from being medal possibilities to medal probables. "These two selected teams have managed to deliver consistent medal-winning performances that gave the RYA's Paralympic Selection Committee great confidence in their early nomination."

Commenting on his selection, Stephen who now lives in Cardiff, said: "It's fantastic to be representing Great Britain for another Games and it's great to be selected early. We'll enjoy the moment, but

for us, it's all part of the process and our big focus needs to be on making the boat go faster over the 12 months.

"We've not yet won a Paralympic medal and for the last few years we've not managed to win a gold at the World Championships, so we'll have that in the locker and will be using that as motivation to strive for gold next year.

"When I think about

the possibility of winning a medal at next year's Games and the thought of standing on the podium, it brings a tear to my eye.

"For it to have that kind of emotional response just shows how much it means to me, and that's why we'll be giving it everything. We've got to try and make that dream a reality next year."

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Bridgend Town cricket club were recently involved in a semi-final encounter in the DC Thomas Cup against Ynystawe - how did they get on? Turn to page 22 and find out!

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